

Fiery protests erupt in Pakistan

ZARAR KHAN

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Thousands of Pakistanis fed up with political leaders they say are corrupt and indifferent rallied in the Pakistani capital Tuesday, as the cleric who organized

insisted his vague demands for election reform are simply meant to root out corruption in the political system. He pledged several weeks ago to lead a "million-man march" on Islamabad on Monday to press his demands.

clave where another row of shipping containers and a heavy police presence protected the government buildings. There were no clashes with security authorities, and the marchers appeared to stop there. During a 40-minute speech



A youth runs across the street holding waiving a national flag, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. Thousands of supporters of Pakistani Sunni Muslim cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri descended Monday on the Pakistani capital of Islamabad calling for reforms.

(AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

the rally called for the government to resign. The dramatic entry into Pakistani politics of Tahir-ul-Qadri, a preacher who until recently lived in Canada, has sparked concern from some that he is seeking to derail elections at the behest of the powerful army. Polls are expected this spring. Qadri has denied that and

Early in the morning after Qadri finished his speech railing against the government, some of the marchers pushed aside the shipping containers that had been placed on the street to block their access to the city center and government buildings in a protected enclave. Some of the marchers then walked toward the en-

in the early morning hours, Qadri told his supporters that the government's mandate was finished. "Tonight your mandate is finished ... I give you time until tomorrow to dissolve national and all four provincial assemblies otherwise the nation will dissolve them on their own," he said, speaking behind bulletproof glass. □

Shots fired at Greek Prime Minister's office

LIZ ALDERMAN

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ATHENS, Greece — Unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets into the headquarters of Greece's governing New Democracy Party in central Athens before dawn Monday, adding to a wave of politically motivated violence in recent days as Greece struggles with its worst economic crisis in a decade.

No one was injured in the attack, in which one bullet entered the office of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras.

Though there was no public claim of responsibility for the shooting, the episode followed a spate of attacks on other symbols of the Greek establishment that are believed to have been carried out by

far-left militant groups. Those attacks over the past week involved canister bombs detonated at government offices, banks and the homes of five prominent journalists in Athens. A government spokesman warned Monday of a "dangerous escalation of spreading terror."

All of Greece's opposition parties, including Syriza, Independent Greeks, Golden Dawn and the Communist Party condemned the shooting attack Monday. Urban political violence has tended to flare in Greece at moments of political chaos and economic deterioration. A group called November 17 mounted terror attacks against politicians and businessmen for decades after the fall of the country's military junta in 1974. □

Newly surfaced pages show Jewish life in Muslim empire

ISABEL KERSHNER

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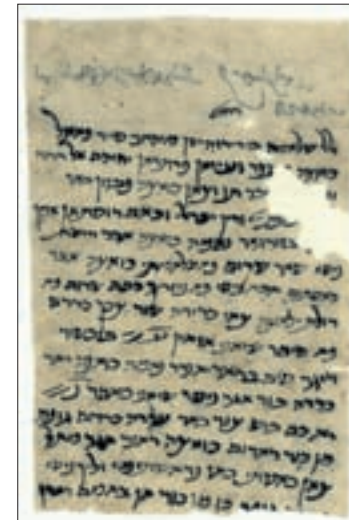
JERUSALEM — A batch of 1,000-year-old manuscripts from the mountainous northern reaches of war-torn Afghanistan, reportedly found in a cave inhabited by foxes, has revealed previously unknown details about the cultural, economic and religious life of a thriving but little understood Jewish society in a Persian part of the Muslim empire of the 11th century. The 29 paper pages, now encased in clear plastic and unveiled here this month at the National Library of Israel, are part of a trove of hundreds of documents discovered in the cave whose existence had been known for several years, with photographs circulating among experts. Remarkably well preserved, apparently because of the dry conditions there, the majority of the documents are now said to be in the hands of private dealers in Britain, Switzerland and possibly the United States and the Middle East.

"This is the first time that we have actual physical evidence of the Jewish life and culture within the Iranian culture of the 11th century," said Professor Haggai Ben-Shammai, the library's academic director. While other historical sources have pointed to the existence of Jewish communities in that area in the early Middle Ages, he said, the documents offer "proof that they were there."

The texts are known collectively as the Afghan Geniza, a Hebrew term for a repository of sacred texts and objects.

They were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Judeo-Persian, Judeo-Arabic and Arabic, and some used the Babylonian system for vowels, a linguistic assortment that scholars said would have been nearly impossible to forge.

The exact source of the documents is murky. The manuscripts are said to have come from a remote



Researchers say the "Afghan Geniza" marks the greatest such archive found since the "Cairo Geniza" was discovered in an Egyptian synagogue more than 100 years ago.

(AP Photo)

area near the borders of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, wild terrain largely controlled by warlords.

Jews probably migrated there in the early Middle Ages to engage in commerce along the Silk Road, the important trade route linking China and Europe.

The National Library would like to gather the entire collection under one roof, but the current asking prices for the remaining texts add up to many millions of dollars.

The acquisition comes as the National Library is in the midst of transformation, separating from a merger with Hebrew University, moving off campus and digitizing its vast collection. Founded in 1892 with the goal of gathering the intellectual heirlooms of a widely dispersed Jewish people, the library counts among its prized possessions two volumes of Maimonides' Commentary on the Mishna, Isaac Newton's manuscripts, a 15th-century Persian Quran illuminated in gold and lapis lazuli, and a notebook in which Franz Kafka practiced Hebrew vocabulary. The 29 Afghan pages will join those texts and, once scanned, complete their journey from a dark cave to the glow of the world's computer screens. □

Armstrong confesses to Oprah he doped



Cyclists ride along the Lance Armstrong Bikeway, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, in Austin, Texas.

(AP Photo/Jack Plunkett)

JIM LITKE
JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Cyclist Lance Armstrong confessed to Oprah Winfrey during an interview Monday that he used performance-enhancing drugs to win the Tour de France, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the interview is to be broadcast Thursday on Winfrey's network.

Armstrong was stripped of all seven Tour titles last year following a voluminous U.S. Anti-Doping Agency report that portrayed him as a ruthless competitor, willing to go to any lengths to win the prestigious race.

USADA chief executive Travis Tygart labeled the doping regimen allegedly carried out by the U.S. Postal Service team that Armstrong once led, "The most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen."

After a federal investigation of the cyclist was dropped without charges being brought last year, USADA stepped in with an investigation of its own. The agency deposed 11 former teammates and accused Armstrong of masterminding a complex and brazen drug program that included steroids, blood boosters and a range of other performance-enhancers.

A group of about 10 close friends and advisers to Armstrong left a downtown

Austin hotel about three hours after they arrived Monday afternoon for the taping. Among them were Armstrong attorneys Tim Herman and Sean Breen, along with Bill Stapleton, Armstrong's longtime agent, manager and business partner. All declined comment entering and exiting the session.

Soon afterward, Winfrey tweeted: "Just wrapped with (at)lancearmstrong More than 2 1/2 hours. He came READY!" She was scheduled to appear on "CBS This Morning" on Tuesday to discuss the interview.

In a text to the AP on Saturday, Armstrong said: "I told her (Winfrey) to go wherever she wants and I'll answer the questions directly, honestly and candidly. That's all I can say."

Armstrong stopped at the Livestrong Foundation, which he founded, on his way to the interview and said, "I'm sorry" to staff members, some of whom broke down in tears. A person with knowledge of that session said Armstrong choked up and several employees cried during the session.

The person also said Armstrong apologized for letting the staff down and putting Livestrong at risk but he did not make a direct confession to using banned drugs. He said he would try to restore the foundation's reputation, and urged the group to continue fighting for the charity's mission of helping cancer patients and their families. □

Obama scoffs at gun seizure fears

CHARLES J. LEWIS

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WASHINGTON — One month after the school massacre in Newtown, Conn., President Obama on Monday attributed the recent surge of weapons sales to efforts by gun control foes to arouse fears that the federal government would seize firearms.

Obama also said he would unveil details of his "sensible, common-sense" program for tighter gun controls later this week.

The president, responding to questions at a White House news conference, repeated his view that those steps would include "an assault weapons ban that is meaningful," stronger background checks and measures to keep high capacity magazine clips "out of the hands of folks who shouldn't have them."

"Those are things I con-

orders — as opposed to legislation — with the aim of reducing gun violence. "I'm confident that there are some steps that we can take that don't require legislation and that are within my authority."

He indicated that he might order changes in federal data tracking of gun ownership.

Asked at his news conference about the boom in gun sales amid administration efforts to tighten gun rules, Obama said gun control opponents "have a pretty effective way of ginning up fear on the part of gun owners that somehow the federal government is about to take all your guns away."

"And there's probably an economic element to that. It obviously is good for business."

The president scoffed at those views.

"Responsible gun owners,

ion. And surely, we can do something about that."

Part of the challenge, he said, "is that even the slightest hint of some sensible, responsible legislation in this area fans this notion that somehow, here it comes and everybody's guns are going to be taken away. It's unfortunate, but that's the case."

The administration's gun control agenda is being fashioned by Vice President Joe Biden, who held a series of meetings last week with representatives of gun owners — including the National Rifle Association — sports groups, crime victims, the film and video game industries and mental health professionals.

On Monday, Biden met with a group of House Democrats, including Rep. Elizabeth Esty, D-Conn., the freshman whose district includes Newtown. Also attending were Attorney General Eric Holder, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Later, Esty said she used the closed meeting to thank Biden for the administration's "care and support" for the Newtown community.

She noted that Obama, Holder and Education Secretary Arne Duncan have visited Newtown since Dec. 14. She also said Biden has made efforts to talk on the telephone with the parents of all the victims.

Asked if she was satisfied with the task force's efforts to reach out to the Newtown community, Esty said that question was for members of the community to decide and noted that "there a fine line" between respect for private grieving and the urge to express sympathy.

She termed the legislative strategy for the road ahead "a work in progress." She said the House members at the meeting included the well-known foe of gun control, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., the senior Democrat in the House. □



President Barack Obama speaks during the last news conference of his first term in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

tinue to believe make sense," he said.

He said members of Congress who were "as deeply moved and saddened as I was by what happened in Newtown" will have the opportunity to adopt new gun rules.

"We're going to have to come up with answers that set politics aside. And that's what I expect Congress to do," he said.

Obama repeated that he may announce executive

people who have a gun for protection, for hunting, for sportsmanship, they don't have anything to worry about.

"The issue here is not whether or not we believe in the Second Amendment. The issue is, are there some sensible steps that we can take to make sure that somebody like the individual in Newtown can't walk into a school and gun down a bunch of children in a shockingly rapid fash-



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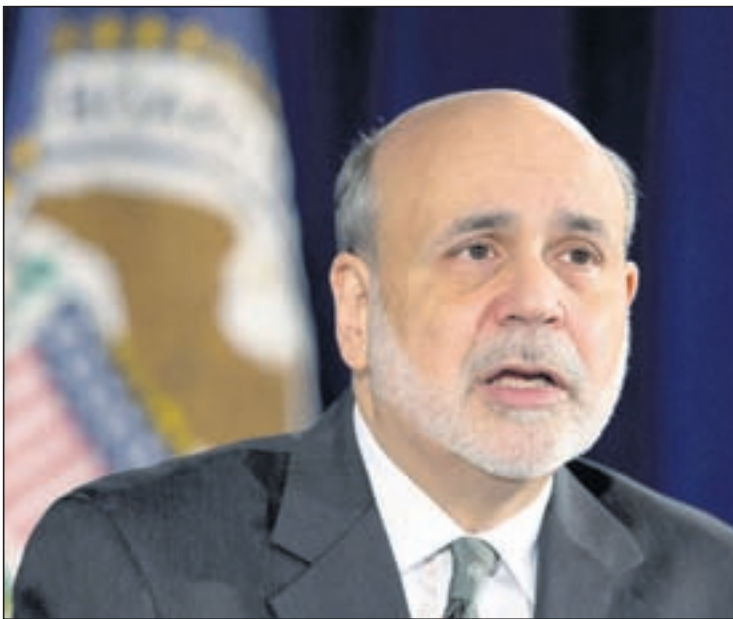
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Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Bernanke prods Congress to raise America's debt ceiling

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday that it's important that Congress raise America's borrowing limit before the Treasury runs out of maneuvering room to avoid a potential default on U.S. debt. Bernanke, speaking at the University of Michigan, said the approaching debt limit is one of the "critical fiscal watersheds" for the gov-

ernment in coming weeks. President Barack Obama also spoke Monday about the urgency of raising the limit. Obama said he wouldn't let congressional Republicans use the debt limit as leverage in negotiations over spending cuts. Bernanke noted that an impasse over the debt ceiling in 2011 led to a rating downgrade of long-term U.S. debt, the first time that's occurred. He said Congress should raise the

ceiling to "avoid a situation where our government doesn't pay its bills."

The Fed decided last month to keep buying \$85 billion a month in Treasuries and mortgage bonds to try to keep borrowing costs low and encourage more spending. The bond-buying program was left open-ended.

But it turned out that Fed officials differed about how long the bond purchases should continue. When the minutes of the meeting were released Jan. 3, they revealed that "several" committee members thought the purchases should slow or end well before year's end. These officials fear the bond buying is keeping rates so low for so long that it could ignite inflation or encourage speculative buying of risky assets.

Still, many economists have said they think the Fed will maintain its bond purchases at their current level through 2013.

On Monday, Bernanke didn't address the divisions within the Fed. But he said he thought the new round of bond buying was providing key support. He said the Fed will continue to assess the benefits of the bond buying against any risks of continuing the purchases. Bernanke said the purchases have shown that the Fed still has "ammunition" to aid the economy even after having cut short-term interest rates to near zero. □



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Board may fire teacher for his flag-stomping

JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

CHAPIN, South Carolina (AP) — A South Carolina high school teacher who talked glowingly about the U.S. and the importance of embracing freedom while stomping on an American flag in his classroom is still deciding whether to appeal a superintendent's recommendation that he be fired.

Lexington-Richland District 5's school board received an update Monday behind closed doors about Scott Compton's lesson at Chapin High School, but didn't take any action because Compton has until the end of next week to ask board members to consider his appeal, district spokesman Mark Bounds said.

Neither Compton nor his attorney was at the school board meeting.

Superintendent Stephen Hefner didn't find a problem with the ninth and 10th grade English teacher's lesson on how ideas should be greater than symbols, but instead was appalled with the bad judgment Compton used in defacing a U.S. flag to make his point, Bounds said.

"I was in the military 20 years. I will defend your right to burn an American flag in the public square to my death. But as a teacher, you cannot bring your personal biases into the classroom," Bounds said.

Neither Compton nor his lawyer Darryl Smalls, returned messages from The Associated Press. Last week, Smalls emailed a statement to WIS-TV, saying Compton was trying to show the idea of what America stands for is greater than the material objects like the flag that represent it. He said several members of Compton's family have served in the military and they fully support him.

"He meant no intentional disrespect to those men and women who served our country or to America itself," Smalls wrote. □

Residents shocked by brutal double slaying

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Police say the strangulation and attempted dismemberment of two Illinois men, allegedly at the hands of four young adults, is one of the most heinous cases they've seen. Three of the people arrested were playing video games when police arrived at a Joliet home, where the bodies of Eric Glover and Terrence Rankins were found Thursday. "This is one of the most brutal, heinous and upsetting things I've ever seen in my 27 years of law enforcement," Police Chief Mike Trafton said. "Not only the crime scene, but the disregard for common decency toward human beings."

Police said Glover and Rankins, both 22 and from Joliet, were lured to the home of 18-year-old Alisa Massaro and then robbed and killed. Officers discovered the bodies of Glover and Rankins on Thursday when they were called to the home, where they found Massaro playing video games with Adam Landerman, 19, and Joshua Miner, 24.

The three, who are all from Joliet, were arrested on first-degree murder charges.

Bethany McKee, 18, of Shorewood also faces first-degree murder charges. All are being held on \$10 million bond and appeared in court Monday.

"It's demonic," Rankins' mother, Jamille Kent, said.

were "very much surprised" when police walked in on them Thursday. McKee had left the house but police arrested her later in nearby Kankakee.

Kent said her son and Glover had been friends for five

"It's hard for me to say the words."

Glover graduated from Joliet Central High School and had made the honor roll and participated in football, wrestling and track, his family said. Rankins, described as "a very outgoing, loving, fun person" by his mother, graduated from Joliet West High School.

Phillip Massaro, Alisa Massaro's father, said in a brief phone interview with The Herald-News in Joliet that he was in disbelief.

"All I can say is it's a terrible thing that happened, and I can't believe my daughter had anything to do with it," he said. "I don't know what happened. I just don't know what to say. I can't really talk about it. I'm too devastated, and I can't talk about it."

Massaro's lawyer, George Lenard, did not immediately return phone calls to The Associated Press for comment Monday. Charles Bretz, attorney for McKee, declined comment.

Public defenders for Landerman and Miner could not be reached. No one answered the phone at the public defender's office in Will County. □



This undated booking photo shows 18-year-old Alisa Massaro, of Joliet. Massaro was one of four young adults charged with first-degree murder in the Jan. 10, 2013, deaths of two men in Joliet.

(AP Photo/Will County Sheriff's Office)

"This is evil."

Joliet is a city of about 150,000 people located about 40 miles southwest of downtown Chicago.

Trafton said Massaro, Landerman and Miner

years. Family members said they called police Thursday night after they hadn't heard from the two since Wednesday.

"It's just senseless," Glover's mother Nicole Jones said.

White House rejects Texas secession petition

RICHARD S. DUNHAM

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WASHINGTON — If Texas is going to secede from the Union, it will be without the blessing of the Obama administration.

The White House on Monday formally turned thumbs down on an electronic petition signed by more than 125,000 people demanding that the Lone Star State be permitted to withdraw its star from the U.S. flag.

In a statement entitled "Our States Remain United," the Obama administration rejected nine secession petitions that have received at least 25,000 signatures on the White House's "We the People" web site — the threshold to require an administration response.

"In a nation of 300 million people — each with their own set of deeply-held beliefs — democracy can be noisy and controversial. And that's a good thing," wrote Jon Carson, director of the Office of Public Engagement.

"Free and open debate is what makes this country work, and many

people around the world risk their lives every day for the liberties we often take for granted."

Secession petitions have proven to be a popular pastime among conservative firebrands in recent months. The White House has received secession requests for all 50 states — along with one asking for Austin, Texas, to be given permission to remain in the United States if the rest of Texas secedes. More than 675,000 people have affixed their names to those petitions on a White House web site but the White House commitment to formally respond applies only to petitions that have at least 25,000 signatories.

The other petitions rejected by the White House — all from former states of the Confederacy — sought independence from Washington for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Many of the Texas petition signers were from outside Texas, including hundreds who signed it to bid good riddance to the only American state to once have been a sovereign re-

public.

A small band of rebels in California in 1846 declared independence from Mexico but never formed a government.

The understated White House response on Monday seemed more like a high school history lesson than a revival of fiery Civil War rhetoric. Team Obama welcomed a healthy debate over the Union but cautioned that the debate should not be used to "tear us apart."

The administration then pivoted to Obama talking points.

"Whether it's figuring out how to strengthen our economy, reduce our deficit in a responsible way, or protect our country, we will need to work together — and hear from one another — in order to find the best way to move forward," Carson wrote.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a vocal critic of the federal government and the Obama administration, flatly opposed the secession movement.

After the petition drive gained steam, Perry's office issued a statement lauding "the greatness of our Union." □

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Boy guilty in death of neo-Nazi dad

IAN LOVETT

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RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The young son of a neo-Nazi knew right from wrong when he shot and killed his father, and he is therefore guilty of second-degree murder, a judge ruled on Monday.

Joseph Hall was 10 years old when he shot his sleeping father in the head in 2011. Now 12, he could be held in state custody until

not cry when the police arrived, even as other family members were sobbing.

"These actions show the court that he knew his actions were wrong and did not want to get caught," Leonard said in court Monday. "The killing was not spontaneous but planned."

The trial, which began in October but was delayed for months and only resumed last week, offered a

teacher with a telephone cord. As a result, he was expelled from at least half a dozen schools.

"He was very impulsive and very violent towards the other children and teachers," his stepmother, Krista McCary, testified during the trial. "Hitting, kicking, biting, scratching, stabbing with sharp objects, hitting with objects."

Hall also beat Joseph regularly for years before the



Jeff Hall, a neo-Nazi, during a conference of the National Socialist Movement, in Pemberton, N.J., April 15, 2011. A judge on Jan. 14, 2013, found Hall's son, Joseph, 12, guilty of murdering his father in 2011, and ruled that he knew the difference between right and wrong when he shot and killed Hall.
 (Julie Platner/The New York Times)

age 23.

Because Joseph was so young at the time of the murder, the case hinged on whether he understood that shooting his father, Jeffrey Hall, 32, was wrong at the time. The judge, Jean P. Leonard, of Riverside County Superior Court, noted that after the shooting, Joseph put the gun under his bed, and he did

rare and intimate glimpse into the life of a neo-Nazi's son.

Joseph had been violent almost his entire life, according to testimony, beginning before his father joined the National Socialist Movement. He hit his sisters and his stepmother, stabbed classmates at school with pencils and once tried to strangle a

murder, the judge noted Monday. The prosecutor, Michael Soccio, said he hoped the court would get Joseph help.

"Joseph is a little boy, and his life has been very, very sad," Soccio said after the ruling Monday. But he added that he would have been concerned had the judge ordered Joseph's release. □

Justice Clarence Thomas breaks his silence in court

ADAM LIPTAK

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Around 11:45 Monday morning, Justice Clarence Thomas broke almost seven years of silence during Supreme Court arguments. But it was not entirely clear what he said. The justices were considering the qualifications of a death penalty defense lawyer in Louisiana, and Justice Antonin Scalia noted that she had graduated from Yale Law School, which is, by some measures, the best in the nation. It is also Thomas' alma mater. Thomas leaned into his microphone, and in the midst of a great deal of cross talk among the justices, cracked a joke. Or so it seemed to people in the courtroom. The official transcript confirms that Thomas spoke, for the first time since Feb. 22, 2006. It attributes these words to him, after a follow-up comment from Scalia concerning a male graduate of Harvard Law School: "Well — he did not _." That is all the transcript recites.

Though the transcription is incomplete, people in the courtroom understood him to say that a law degree from Yale may actually be proof of incompetence. What follows in the transcript supports that view. First, there is a notation indicating laughter in the courtroom. The stray set of four words attributed to Thomas are in no sense a joke or other occasion for laughter. And the lawyer at the lectern, a Louisiana




US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

(Associated Press)

prosecutor named Carla S. Sigler, responded, "I would refute that, Justice Thomas," indicating that the justice had articulated a proposition capable of refutation. Sigler had said earlier that the Yale lawyer was "a very impressive attorney." It is not unusual for Thomas to exchange banter with the members of the court who sit next to him, Justices Scalia and Stephen G. Breyer. But those communications are inaudible in the courtroom. This remark seemed meant for public consumption.

Thomas has offered various reasons for his general taciturnity. He has said, for instance, that he is self-conscious about the way he speaks and has recalled being teased about the dialect he grew up speaking in rural Georgia.

In his 2007 memoir, "My Grandfather's Son," he wrote that he never asked questions in college or law school and that he was intimidated by some of his fellow students. □



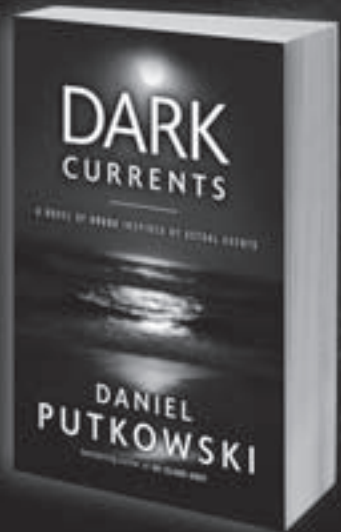
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Newtown families organize against gun violence

RAY RIVERA

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NEWTOWN, Conn. — Several parents whose children were killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting joined the national debate on gun violence Monday, declaring they would help start a non-profit organization aimed at preventing the kind of bloodshed that turned this quaint New England community into a national symbol of grief. In some of their first public statements since the Dec. 14 shooting that killed 20 children and six staff members at the school, the families of 11 of the children and adult victims appeared at a news conference and called for a national dialogue around issues of mental health, school safety and what their organization, called Sandy Hook Promise, described as "gun responsibility." "On Friday, Dec. 14, I put two children on the bus, and only one came home," said Nelba Marquez-Greene, whose 6-year-old daughter, Ana, died that day. "I hope that no parent, grandparent or caregiver of children ever has to go through that pain." The news conference, which included other members of the Newtown community, was the first time a group of families have spoken publicly about the tragedy. It was held in the auditorium of the historic Edmond Town Hall in downtown Newtown. The families entered holding hands and wearing green ribbons, and filed on

stage. Some people held pictures of the children they lost. As they sat on stage, some wiped away tears, still gripped in mourning. "It's a sad honor to be here today," said Nicole Hockley, whose son Dylan, 6, was found dead in the arms

and Vice President Joe Biden prepare to unveil gun-control proposals that are expected to call for a ban on the kind of assault weapon and high-capacity ammunition magazines used by Adam Lanza in the Newtown shooting. But asked where the group

cently to talk directly to the families that chose to meet with him. But we don't have an immediate response right now. "We're looking for dialogue. We're looking for ideas. We're looking for a national discussion to take place. We don't want to



Jimmy Greene holds a photo of his daughter, Ana Marquez-Greene, 6, one of the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, as his wife, Nelba Marquez-Greene, right, is comforted by her mother during a news conference to call for a national dialogue on gun violence, in Newtown, Conn., Jan. 14, 2013.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

of his favorite school aide, Anne Marie Murphy, who apparently died trying to shield him. "I still find myself reaching for Dylan's hand to walk through a parking lot," she said as she stood at the podium alongside Marquez-Greene, "or expect him to crawl into my bed for early morning cuddles before school. It's so hard to believe he's gone." The gathering came as President Barack Obama

stood on tough new gun measures, Tim Makris, one of its 17 founders, said it was still in the process of educating itself before taking firm any stands. "It's only been 30 days, and for the past 30 days we've really been looking inward and supporting our community," Makris said. "We love the focus of the president," he added, "and we love that the vice president reached out re-

just come out and say this is what we stand for, this is what we believe in. We want to encourage a national discussion on this. Do something different. When you look at what's been done in the past, it hasn't gotten us very far. We have to do something different." David and Francine Wheeler, whose son, Benjamin, 6, was killed, explained why they joined the campaign. □

Ex-President Bush released from hospital

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush was released from a Texas hospital and went home Monday after spending nearly two months being treated for a bronchitis-related cough and other health issues, a family spokesman said. Bush, 88, the oldest living former U.S. president, was admitted on Nov. 23. His stay included a week in intensive care last month. "I am deeply grateful for the wonderful doctors and nurses at Methodist who took such good care of me," Bush said in a statement released by spokesman Jim McGrath. "Let me add just how touched we were by the many get-well messages we received from our friends and fellow Americans."

Your prayers and good wishes helped more than you know, and as I head home my only concern is that I will not be able to thank each of you for your kind words." Bush had been in the hospital for about a month before his office disclosed in late December that he was in intensive care because physicians were having difficulty controlling a fever that developed after the cough improved. His office said on Dec. 29 that he had been moved back to a regular hospital room. □

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Mali rebels surge, vow to avenge attacks

**BABA AHMED
 RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
 Associated Press**

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Despite a punishing bombardment by French warplanes, al-Qaida-linked insurgents grabbed more territory in Mali on Monday, seizing a strategic military camp that brought them far closer to the government's seat of power. Declaring France had "opened the gates of hell" with its assault, the rebels threatened retribution. "France ... has fallen into a trap much more dangerous than Iraq, Afghanistan or Somalia," said Omar Ould Hamaha, a leader of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, one of the rebel groups controlling the north, speaking on radio Europe 1.

French fighter jets have been pummeling the insurgents' desert stronghold in the north since Friday, determined to shatter the Islamist domination of a region many fear could become a launch pad for terrorist attacks on the West and a base for coordination with al-Qaida in Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan.

The Islamist fighters responded with a counter-offensive Monday, overrunning the garrison town of Diabaly, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Segou, the administrative capital of central Mali, said French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The French Embassy in Bamako immediately ordered the evacuation of the roughly 60 French na-

tionals in the Segou region, said a French citizen who insisted on anonymity out of fear for her safety. France expanded its aerial bombing campaign, launching airstrikes for the

almost a year ago. While the al-Qaida-linked extremists control the north, they had been blocked in the narrow central part of the landlocked nation. They appear to have now

flush out the jihadists, had argued that airstrikes by sophisticated Western aircraft would be no match for the mixture of rebel groups occupying northern Mali.

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flush out the jihadists, had argued that airstrikes by sophisticated Western aircraft would be no match for the mixture of rebel groups occupying northern Mali.



A public transport minibus is stopped by Malian soldiers at a checkpoint at the entrance to Markala, approximately 40 km outside Segou on the road to Diabaly, in central Mali, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

(AP Photo/Harouna Traore)

first time in central Mali to combat the new threat. But the intense assault, including raids by gunship helicopters and Mirage fighter jets, failed to halt the advance of the rebels, who were only 250 miles (400 kilometers) from the capital, Bamako, in the far south.

The rebels "took Diabaly after fierce fighting and resistance from the Malian army, that couldn't hold them back," said Le Drian, the French defense minister.

Mali's military is in disarray and has let many towns fall with barely a shot fired since the insurgency in the West African nation began

done a flanking move, opening a second front in the broad southern section of the country, knifing in from the west on government forces.

In response to the insurgent advances, Mauritania, which lies to the northwest of Mali, put its military on high alert. To the south, the nation of Burkina Faso sent military reinforcements to its border and set up roadblocks. Even Algeria, which had earlier argued against a military intervention, was helping France by opening its air space to French Rafale jets.

Many of Mali's neighbors, who had been pushing for a military intervention to

Leaders of ECOWAS, the regional body representing the 15 nations in western Africa, stressed that the north of Mali is mostly desert, and that it would be easy to pick off the convoys of rebel vehicles from the air since there is almost no ground cover.

Monday's surprise assault and the downing of a French combat helicopter by rebel fire last week have given many pause. Just hours before Diabaly fell, a commander at the military post in Niono, the town immediately to the south, laughed on the phone, and confidently asserted that the Islamists would never take it. □

Myanmar battle brushing against Chinese borders

**THOMAS FULLER
 © 2013 New York Times**

BANGKOK — Fighting in Myanmar between an armed ethnic rebel group and the Myanmar military threatened to spill into Chinese territory Monday, the insurgents said, with reports that shelling had killed three people in the border town of Laiza.

The Myanmar military in recent weeks has been pushing toward Laiza, the headquarters of the Kachin Independence Army, a rebel group seeking a degree of autonomy from the central government.

Awng Jet, an officer with the Kachin Independence Army, said by telephone that the shelling happened early Monday and killed three civilians, including a Christian missionary and a student. Other rebel sources circulated pictures of three bloodied bodies.

Ye Thut, a deputy information minister for the government, expressed skepticism about the attack on his Facebook page and said it needed to be "confirmed independently."

Fighting between the Kachin rebels and government troops has sharply escalated since last month when Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, admitted using aircraft to fight the rebels. Government troops have appeared to take at least one hilltop position previously held by the rebels, putting them one step closer to Laiza, which appeared to be the goal of their intensified campaign. □

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Activists launch last-ditch effort against Israel PM

AMY TEIBEL
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With large numbers of Israelis expected to sit out next week's election, centrist activists have launched a last-ditch appeal to get out the vote, hoping to defy what appears to be a guaranteed victory for a hard-line bloc led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This grassroots effort could be the moderate camp's only chance. Moderate, secular voters tend to turn out in smaller numbers than ideologically motivated hard-liners. Reversing this trend, experts say, is the surest way to take on the government's handling of major issues like stalled peacemaking with the Palestinians, Iran's nuclear program and a troubled economy.

Polls published in Israeli newspapers over the weekend projected Netanyahu and his traditional right-wing and religious allies winning between 64 and 71 seats, enough to secure a majority in the 120-member parliament, compared to 49 to 56 for centrist and Arab parties.

Pollster Camil Fuchs says those numbers reflect current trends. "But a four to five percentage point change in turnout could change things," he said. The get-out-the vote campaigners, including television personalities and local celebrities, present their efforts as non-partisan, but many are perceived to be aligned with Netanyahu's opponents.

Netanyahu's opponents say the stakes are especially high in the current election. Critics point to the deadlock in peace efforts with the Palestinians, his repeated run-ins with

President Barack Obama and Iran's suspect nuclear program. Without a strong alliance with the U.S., they say, it would be difficult to halt the Iranians or rally international support for Israel's positions toward the Palestinians.

Netanyahu's Likud Party has fielded an especially

hawkish slate of candidates who reject concessions to the Palestinians. The rise of "Jewish Home," a pro-settler party that could play a major role in the next coalition government, could further affect peace efforts. Jewish Home's leader, Naftali Bennett, and many inside

Likud have advocated annexing parts of the West Bank.

Reflecting his hawkish line Monday, Netanyahu told Israel's Channel 2 TV that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas does not want to negotiate. "We don't have to say that we don't have a future

here because Abu Mazen doesn't want to negotiate with us," Netanyahu said, referring to Abbas by his nickname. Abbas blames Israel for a four-year stalemate in peace talks.

The Palestinians claim all of the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, for their hoped-for state. Israeli moderates warn that Israel's continued control of these territories and their millions of Palestinian residents threaten Israel's status as a Jewish democracy.

Despite the pressing issues, turnout in recent elections has been just over 60 percent. Fuchs said turnout among supporters of Netanyahu and his allies is generally higher than among the rest of the population. According to pollsters, turnout is especially low among several key groups — political moderates, people under 30 and Israeli Arabs. These constituencies all tend to favor Netanyahu's opponents. □



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem.
(AP Photo/Baz Ratner, Pool)

Syria continues military sweep of Damascus

BEN HUBBARD
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Syrian government bombed areas around Damascus on Monday as part of its push to keep rebel fighters out of the capital, leaving many children among the dozens killed, anti-regime activists said.

An international aid organization cited such raids, along with rape and widespread destruction, as key factors in the exodus of more than a half-million Syrians to neighboring countries since the conflict began in March 2011.

The International Rescue Committee said it could be "months, if not years" before the refugees can return home and warned that Syria's civil war could enflame tensions in the Middle East.

After nearly two years of violence, it appears unlikely that the war will end soon. Although rebels seeking to oust President Bashar Assad have made gains in the country's north and east and outside of Damascus, they have yet to seriously challenge his hold on the capital or other parts of the country.

Earlier this month, Assad dismissed calls from the U.S. and others that he step down and vowed to keep fighting until the country is free of "terrorists" — his government's shorthand for rebels.

International diplomacy has done little to bridge the gap.

In a report released Monday, the International Rescue Committee painted a grim picture of what life has become for Syrians in war-torn areas.

Syrians face brutal killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, frequent airstrikes, sexual

violence and diminishing medical services, the report said.

The 32-page report, based on interviews with Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq in November 2012, said that many who fled the country cited rape as a primary reason.

"Many women and girls relayed accounts of being attacked in public or in their homes, primarily by armed men," the report said. "These rapes, sometimes by multiple perpetrators, often occur in front of family members." □



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Berlusconi bid to halt sex trial denied by court

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP)—A Milan court on Monday rejected a bid by former Premier Silvio Berlusconi to halt his sex-for-hire trial for Italy's general election campaign, a ruling that makes a verdict likely before the February vote. Berlusconi's lawyer accused the court of "interfering heavily" in the Italian political campaign by refusing to suspend the trial so Berlusconi can dedicate himself to campaigning for his center-right coalition. "A verdict will most certainly come before the election. It seems to me this is the clear intent of the court," defense lawyer Niccolo Ghedini told reporters. "It doesn't bother us, but it should bother citi-

zens since it is obvious that it will impact the electoral campaign." Berlusconi denounced the trial as "a comedy, a farce, a defamatory hoax," in an interview with Sky TG24. Prosecutors accused Ghedini of merely seeking to delay a verdict in the nearly 2-year-old trial, which started when Berlusconi was still in office. He resigned some seven months later, making room for Mario Monti's technical government, as the sovereign debt crisis threatened to engulf Italy. Despite his legal woes and sex scandal, Berlusconi's center-right coalition has been gaining in the polls since he actively began campaigning. Berlusconi, 76, also has been boosted



Karima el-Mahroug, the Moroccan woman at the center of ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi's sex-for-hire trial, arrives in court to testify as a witness for the first time, in Milan, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. El-Mahroug was ordered by the court to appear Monday to testify after failing to show on two previous dates because she was reportedly in Mexico on vacation. (AP Photo/Str)

by combative televised debates with journalistic critics. Berlusconi is accused of having paid for sex with a Moroccan woman, Karima el-Mahroug, when she was 17, during racy "bunga bunga" parties with attractive young women at his villa near Milan, and then using his influence to cover it up. Both he and el-Mahroug have denied sexual relations. Berlusconi has apologized for hosting the parties, saying he was lonely after splitting from his second wife. Veronica Laria left him in 2009, citing alleged dalliances with young women. El-Mahroug, 20, better known as Ruby, made her first appearance in court on Monday, where she was called by the defense to testify. The court had ordered her to return from a trip abroad and fined her €200 (\$270) after she failed twice to show up. But Berlusconi's lawyers changed their strategy and decided to renounce her testimony, saying they wanted to "avoid another development in the trial that interferes with the serenity of the election campaign." □



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Germany: Tunnel discovered in bank robbery

BERLIN (AP) — German police say robbers dug a 30-meter (100-foot) tunnel into the safe deposit room of a Berlin bank and escaped with their haul, setting a fire as they left to cover their tracks. Berlin police spokesman Thomas Neuendorf says the tunnel led from an underground garage into the bank's safe deposit room. Neuendorf told The Associated Press Monday that the tunnel was "very

professional" and must have taken weeks or even months to complete. It was elaborately constructed and even had ceiling supports. Police were alerted to the break-in early Monday when a security guard noticed smoke coming from the deposit room. Neuendorf says police are still trying to determine what valuables were stolen from the deposit boxes. Details of the heist called

to mind the spectacular robbery of another Berlin bank in 1995. During that robbery thieves entered the bank through the door, took hostages and demanded a helicopter and ransom. Police besieged and eventually stormed the safe room where the thieves had holed up only to find they had escaped through a tunnel dug by accomplices. Several of the thieves were later caught. □



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Colombian peace talks resume in Cuban capital

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's main rebel group said Monday that it will halt its unilateral cease-fire this weekend, adding a dose of uncertainty even as peace talks to end the half-century-old conflict resumed in the Cuban capital.

The rebels' chief negotiator, Ivan Marquez, said there was no chance his group would reconsider its decision to abandon its two-month-old cease-fire, which the government has steadfastly refused to reciprocate. Military operations are set to resume Sunday.

"The unilateral cease-fire ...

ends on January 20," said Marquez. "That's it."

While the move was ex-

pected, it raises the prospects that slow-moving negotiations in Havana could

cific demands for agrarian reform, one of the main points of contention be-

tion. He said the government had "put forward concrete solutions to transform the countryside," without giving any details.

De la Calle said the government was prepared to extend guarantees to the rebels that the agreements reached in Havana would be honored, but only once the FARC agrees to end the fighting. "There can be no politics of war in Colombia," he said. "We came to Havana to discuss guarantees to create a democratic atmosphere, and to invite the FARC to be part of that democracy." Talks began in October in Oslo, Norway and continued the following month in Havana. Norway and Cuba are acting as guarantors for the negotiations, with diplomats present at the table. De la Calle said the talks will go on for 11 days, followed by a three-day break, before resuming again. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has said the negotiations must bear fruit by November or he will walk away. □



Ivan Marquez, left, chief negotiator for Colombia's FARC, speaks to journalists at the continuation of peace talks with Colombia's government, as fellow FARC member Jesus Santrich, right, looks on in Havana, Cuba, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. (AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

Chavez responding to treatment

C. TOOTHAKER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —The government of Venezuela announced early Monday morning that Hugo Chavez is responding favorably to treatment for a respiratory infection. Venezuelan authorities have said Chavez is still suffering from a severe respiratory infection that he contracted after undergoing a fourth round of surgery on Dec. 11 in Cuba for a cancer in the pelvic area first diagnosed on June 8, 2011.

Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said Monday morning that Chavez is conscious and responding

to treatment for the respiratory infection at a Cuban hospital, although he gave no specifics of Chavez's treatment or condition.

"The respiratory infection is under control," but Chavez "still requires specific measures for a solution to respiratory insufficiency," he said, reading a statement on state television.

"The president is conscious, communicating with his family, his political team and the medical team treating him," Villegas said. Chavez, who was re-elected Oct. 7, hasn't spoken publicly or been seen since the operation, leading to anxiety among Venezuelans about the country. □

be derailed — or at least shaken — by bloodshed back home. Both sides have issued statements in the past 24 hours calling on the other to move more quickly. Talks got underway Monday behind closed doors at a Havana convention center.

Marquez also outlined spe-

tween the sides and the focus of the early rounds of talks. The rebels also said they were studying proposals made by Colombian citizens at a forum held in December in Bogota.

Humberto de la Calle, the government's chief negotiator, said he too hoped the talks would gain trac-

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Cuba travel agencies swamped on first day of new exit visa law

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cubans formed long lines outside travel agencies and migration offices in Havana on Monday as a highly anticipated new law took effect ending the island's much-hated exit visa requirement.

The measure means the end of both real and symbolic obstacles to travel by islanders, though it is not expected to result in a mass exodus. Most Cubans are now eligible to leave with just a current passport

well-known Cuban dissidents said they were told they will now be allowed to travel after being blocked multiple times in the past. Control over who can travel now largely shifts to other governments which will make their own decisions about granting entry visas. Cubans, like people in most other developing countries, will still find it difficult in many cases to get visas from wealthier nations like the U.S.

Several European diplomats in Havana said their embassies have received

ment deny travel in cases of "national security," and one key test of the law will be whether authorities allow exits in sensitive cases such as military officers, scientists, and world-class athletes.

"We will see if this is implemented in a very open way, and if it means that all Cubans can travel," said Roberta Jacobson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs. "If it is implemented in such a manner, it would be a very, very positive" reform.



People wait in a line that continues on to the sidewalk, to buy plane tickets at a small travel agency in Havana, Cuba, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

and national identity card, just like residents of other countries.

It's a tangible benefit for people like Ester Ricardo, a 68-year-old Havana resident who was granted a U.S. tourist visa but denied an exit permit. She queued up early outside the office of a charter airline eager to book a flight to Miami as soon as possible.

"My niece invited me, so I'm going on a family visit," said Ricardo, who plans to be in Florida for around six months. "I'm not going to stay forever. I have a daughter here."

And there have been signs that even islanders in sensitive roles — or open opposition to the Communist government — will be included, a key litmus test of the reforms' scope. Two

a high volume of calls from would-be travelers unaware that they would still need a visa, despite a campaign in official Cuban media to clarify the new requirements.

"I have my passport, my identity card, everything in order," said William Pineira, a 23-year-old who tried to buy a plane ticket Monday to visit relatives but was turned down because he lacked an entry visa. "I wanted to go to Venezuela. But it turns out you have to have permission from them!"

Cuba observers and foreign governments have been waiting to see how the government implements the law to gauge its effect.

The measure contains language that lets the govern-

ment deny travel in cases of "national security," and one key test of the law will be whether authorities allow exits in sensitive cases such as military officers, scientists, and world-class athletes.

In meetings throughout the country last week, doctors were told that most of them will be treated like any other citizen when it comes to travel, a surprise given Cuba's long-standing concerns about brain drain of health care workers. One of the first people in line at the immigration office Monday morning was dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez, who says she has been denied an exit visa 20 times in recent years. Sanchez reported that her application for a new passport went smoothly. She was told it would take 15 days, and once she has the document she would be able to travel.

"I have hope, but I'll believe it when I'm sitting in an airplane," she said. □

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Guatemalan mayor killed in barber shop

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Gunmen in Guatemala have killed the mayor of the town of Jutiapa, in the eastern part of the Central American country. The killing came the same day that President Otto Perez Molina said there has been "a historic decline" in Guatemala's violence during the first year of his administration. He said during his state-of-the-nation address that homicides have decreased about 10 percent. Authorities in Jutiapa say Mayor Carlos Castillo Medrano was shot to death at a barber shop Monday. The victim's brother is Manuel de Jesus Castillo, a former congressman who has been accused of drug gang ties.

No arrest made in slaying of British child

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaican police say some people have been questioned in the fatal shooting of an 8-year-old British girl visiting a rural village, but authorities say no one has been arrested in the case. Assistant Police Commissioner Devon Watkis said Monday that "a number of people" have been temporarily detained for interviews about the shooting. He didn't say how many but added that no charges have been filed. Imani Green was mortally wounded when a lone gunman opened fire Friday night on a group of her family members as they gathered at a relative's roadside shop in Trelawny parish. Three adult relatives were wounded.

Gunman kills two at Brazil Carnival party

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilian police are searching for a gunman who fired into a crowd at a pre-Carnival street party, killing two and wounding 10 other people. Such violence is highly unusual before and during Carnival, which attracts hundreds of thousands of foreign visitors annually. A police spokesman in the city of Novo Friburgo, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northeast of Rio de Janeiro, says they don't know the motive for the shooting and haven't located the gunman. A 43-year-old woman and a 20-year-old man were killed. The shooting happened late Sunday at a popular neighborhood gathering known as a "bloco" party.

Grenada PM calls for February elections

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) — The Caribbean island of Grenada will hold parliamentary elections Feb. 19. Prime Minister Tillman Thomas announced the date at a political rally Sunday night a week after the country's parliament was dissolved. Thomas' National Democratic Congress will be pitted against the opposition New National Party led by former Prime Minister Keith Mitchell. There are roughly 55,000 registered voters on the island of about 110,000 people. In September, Grenada's governor general suspended a parliamentary session allowing Thomas to avoid debate on a no-confidence motion filed by a political ally.

Mexicans sign petition for US gun control

MEXICO CITY (AP) — More than 54,000 Mexicans have signed a petition calling on the United States to take further steps to combat weapons trafficking. Mexico says the majority of guns used by the country's violent drug cartels are smuggled over the border from the United States. Mexico's best-known anti-violence activist and a prominent intellectual presented the petition at the U.S. embassy Monday. Activist Javier Sicilia said "The United States is partly responsible for our humanitarian tragedy." About 70,000 people have died in Mexico in drug violence since 2006, according to Mexico's interior secretary. □



Paseo Herencia installs Sarah-Quita Offringa to their athletic "Wall of Fame"

PALM BEACH - Aruba has several dynamic young athletes proving themselves to be of extraordinary talent, discipline and skill in the world arena. Paseo Herencia shopping center made it a policy to recognize their discipline

and determination with a "Wall of Fame," which was installed last year. The wall now honors the images and efforts of young Aruban baseball players, Olympic swimmers, synchronized swimmers, a BMX bicycle champion, and on

Friday, January 4, the mall proudly unveiled the most accomplished young athlete in the island's history, Sarah Quita-Offringa. Sarah-Quita joined the ranks of professional windsurfers at only 12 years old, along with her brother Quincy, also a talented athlete. They competed on the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) circuit, but in only a short time, Sarah-Quita proved an outstanding athlete attracting the attention of judges and journalists, by being the youngest to ever win a gold medal in Women's Freestyle.

"The Girl with Big Hair," as she was known on the international circuit, delivered on the promise of her potential by becoming the youngest women's world champion ever at the age of 17, in 2008. She defeated and unseated the Moreno sisters, who had long dominated women's freestyle windsurfing.

Though pundits had predicted she would come in third that year, she proved every year since then that is she every inch (and being the tallest person in the room that is a lot of inches,) a champion. She has successfully defended her title as PWA Women's World Freestyle Champion for four consecutive years. In 2011, she proved to be the "fastest woman on the water" by also claiming the Women's World Slalom Champion title as well.

Despite being a supreme athlete, Sarah-Quita has always been a sweet, humble girl, and very conscious of her place as a role model for other Aruban youth. For this reason, she has been dedicated to her studies, and for the last two and a half years is



pursuing a degree in Science and Innovation Management at the University of Utrecht, Holland. She will obtain it shortly, and intends to study and gain a Masters degree, within the intention of returning to assist Aruba in achieving the sustainability practices that will make it a truly "green" island.

For all these reasons, Paseo Herencia General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn were exceptionally proud to host the unveiling ceremony adding Sarah-Quita to their "Wall of Fame." Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Rich-

ard Visser was very pleased to perform the unveiling with Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn, in the presence of her proud parents, Esther and Ruud, Oma Dorothy, and a host of admiring friends and fellow windsurfers. "We would have done this much sooner," claimed Valerie Pietersz-Camacho, "but, unfortunately, Sarah-Quita's busy schedule of competition and schooling just didn't make it possible to do while she was here." Despite all the awards and honors she has received internationally, Sarah-Quita admitted the recognition of her fellow Arubans is always something that particularly touches her heart.





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PALM BEACH –The Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba held a cocktail reception for the local media and press recently. The festive event, held in the resort's Buena Vista Room on the 17th floor with beautiful panoramic island views, was hosted by Director of Catering & Convention Services Richard Kasofsy and Catering & Convention Services Manager Darienne Arends. The occasion marked the announcement of a special promotion for year-end holiday parties, inviting local companies, organizations, and groups to party like it's 2012 by booking year-end events early. The special will offer 2012 pricing for parties booked by February 28th. The holiday season is the busiest time of year for banquets, so it is never too early to book your event, inform Richard and Darienne, and currently there are still prime weekend dates available.



variety of menu options for these events that are just around the corner. For more information on these special event packages and to reserve your date for 2013, contact Darienne at 526-4450/597-3533, or email her at darienne.arends@westin.com. □

Beauty On The Beach

Luz Maria and Andre Schueler

These girls are visiting Aruba and staying at The Amsterdam Manor. Luz Maria de Rio is from Argentina and Andree Schueler is from America.

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Tom Calame's impressive hospitality career spans almost 25 years and numerous continents. Calame comes to the Aruba Marriott most recently by way of the Renaissance Amsterdam Hotel, where he held the position of General Manager.

Calame's work with the Marriott brand began in 1988 as an AIPT trainee at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel. After completing his training, he returned to his native Amsterdam where he held various positions at the Amsterdam Marriott. Quickly climbing the ranks, Calame set the pre-opening strategy for the JW Marriott Mexico City and in 1999, accepted the position of Director of Operations at the Renaissance Grand Beach Resort in St. Thomas.

Subsequently, Calame was promoted to Resident Manager to open JW Marriott Cancun Resort. In 2002, Calame went on to become the Hotel Manager at the Casa Magna Marriott Cancun Resort before accepting his first General Manager position at the JW Marriott Lima in 2004, where he received the General Manager of the Year Award.

Fluent in Dutch, English and Spanish, Tom Calame brings to the position years of international and multi-cultural experience. Calame holds a degree in Hotel Management from the College Heerlen in the Netherlands and an MBA from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

"I'm thrilled to be joining this team of enthusiastic professionals and am fully dedicated to continuing the Aruba Marriott tradition of providing the highest level of service in order to meet and exceed guest expectations," says Calame.

To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1-800-228-9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott.

About Aruba Marriott Resort:

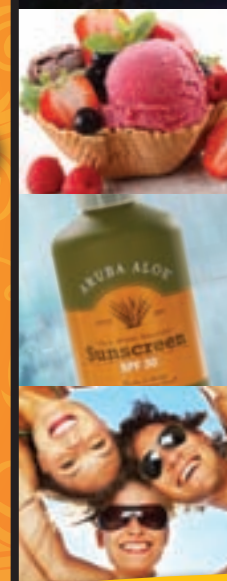
Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea.

On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool, the new H2Oasis adults-only pool and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1-800-228-9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott.

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At Westin Aruba Art Gallery: Opening Reception held for “I see Beauty in Everything!”



PALM BEACH - Last Saturday was the opening reception for the new group exhibition at the Westin Aruba Art Gallery (WAAG), featuring the theme “I see Beauty in Everything!”, showcasing the art of 8 local photographers, providing 8 different perspectives!

The featured artists were Annemiek van Vliet, Armando Goedgedrag, Desisy Gutierrez, Eduardo Valbuena, Maria Teresa Martinez, Mayo Stoppels, Paul van Driel, and Rosalie Klein. Some well known, some still unknown but with a bright future, the 8 photographers are presenting 5 photographs each, displaying what and how they see Beauty in their own perspective. A total of 40 pieces are being displayed at WAAG from Jan.



12 - March 07, 2013.

If you missed the opening, it is worth visiting to see “I see Beauty in Everything.” The presentation is quite unique to say the least, and we promise you that you will hear yourself saying “Wow!”

You can visit WAAG 7days

a week, located on the lobby level of the Westin Hotel. A representative of Curator's on the Go! will be there every Tuesday & Saturday from 3pm to 6pm to answer your questions or assist you for purchasing those fantastic artworks!!

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NBA Roundup



Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard dunks as Cleveland Cavaliers center Tyler Zeller watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

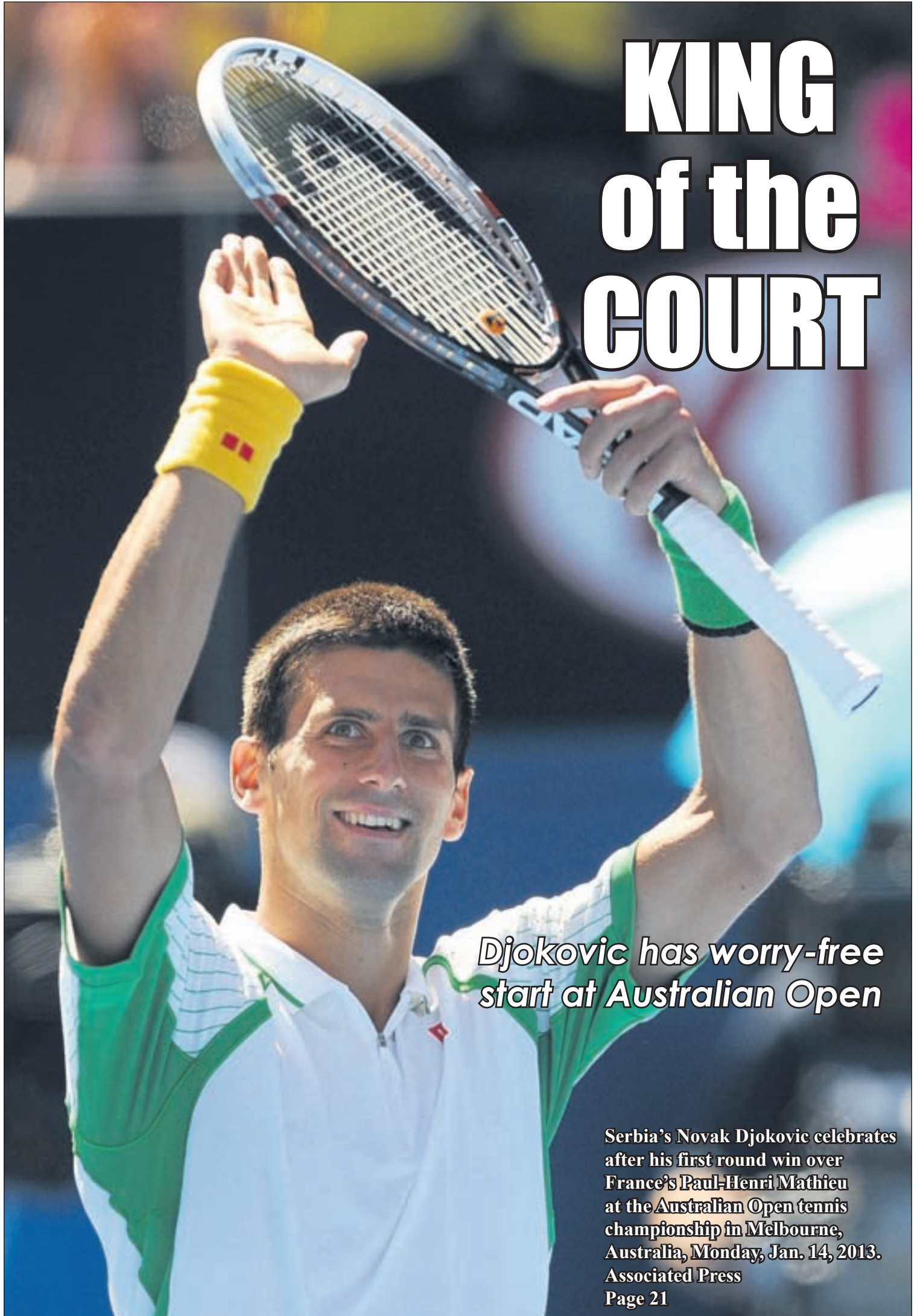
Lakers beat Cavs, snap 6-game skid

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dwight Howard had 22 points and 14 rebounds in his return from a three-game injury absence, and the Los Angeles Lakers snapped their six-game losing streak with a 113-93 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday night. Kobe Bryant scored 23 points for the Lakers, who finally earned their first victory of 2013 while ending their longest skid since February 2007. Howard went 9 for 11 despite his injured shoulder while leading Los Angeles to a comfortable victory over the lowly Cavaliers, who beat the Lakers last month. Kyrie Irving and Dion Waiters scored 15 points apiece for Cleveland, which has lost seven of nine.

Continued on page 20

KING of the COURT



Djokovic has worry-free start at Australian Open

Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after his first round win over France's Paul-Henri Mathieu at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. Associated Press
Page 21

Henley gets PGA Tour career off to record start

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — Russell Henley became the first PGA Tour rookie in ten years to win his debut tournament, taking out the Sony Open on Sunday with a record-setting performance.

Tied for the lead with fellow rookie Scott Langley to start the final round, Henley seized control from the start with a birdie on the first hole. And then he really poured it on at the end of the round. Henley birdied his last five holes to close with a 7-under 63 for a three-shot win over Tim

Clark.

Henley finished at 24-under 256, breaking the Sony Open scoring record by four strokes. It was the second-lowest score for a 72-hole tournament in PGA Tour history, one shot behind Tommy Armour III at the Texas Open in 2003.

Henley also set tournament records for the low 36-hole score after his 63-63 start, he shared the 54-hole record with Langley and set another tournament record with the lowest final round by a champion.

He became the first PGA Tour rookie to win his debut since Garrett Willis in the

2001 Tucson Open, which was held the same week as the winners-only event in Kapalua. And the way he putts, there's no telling where this will lead.

For starters, the 23-year-old can add to his schedule a local event in his home state of Georgia — he's going to the Masters in April.

"I don't really know what happened, honestly," Henley said. "This is the most nervous I've ever been. That's the hardest thing I've ever done. It's been my goal to make it to the Masters my whole life."

Clark, finally feeling healthy



Russell Henley celebrates as he sinks a birdie putt on the 18th green, winning the Sony Open golf tournament, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013, in Honolulu. Henley defeated Tim Clark by three strokes.

Associated Press

after a mysterious elbow injury after his runner-up finish at the Sony Open in 2011, shot 63. Charles Howell III closed with a 66 to tie for third with Langley, who birdied his last two holes for a 70.

For all the birdies Henley made, the biggest putt might have been saving par on the 12th. Henley was two shots ahead of Langley and Clark when he pulled his tee shot and did well to hit a punch shot through the green, followed by a downhill pitch to 10 feet. He made the putt look easy, and two holes later, he poured in a 45-foot birdie putt that sent him on his way. Except for the 18th, his last four birdie

putts were all 12 feet or longer.

The win put Henley inside the top 50 in the world ranking. That should be enough to get him into the Match Play Championship for the top 64 in the world, with the qualifying date only a month away.

He should be set for the other World Golf Championships at Doral.

The win also qualifies him for Firestone in August, along with the PGA Championship.

In his past five tournaments dating to end of September — four of those on the Web.com Tour — Henley is 73-under par. His scoring average in those five events is 67.15. □

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Lindsey Vonn skips slalom race in Flachau

ERIC WILLEMSSEN
Associated Press

FLACHAU, Austria (AP) — Lindsey Vonn is skipping a women's World Cup night slalom on Tuesday because of a lack of recent training in the discipline. Vonn, the defending overall champion, was missing from the list of 68 competitors published by governing body FIS on Monday. "It's her goal to race where she has the chance to win," U.S. women's head coach Alex Hoedlmoser said. "And without any slalom training, there is no chance to win a slalom." Vonn has now missed out on all six slalom events this season. In mid-December, she took a break from skiing to recover from intestinal illness. The American returned for speed races in St. Anton, Austria, last weekend, placing sixth in downhill and fourth in su-

per-G. After Sunday's race, Vonn said she had yet to decide on competing in the Flachau event, where she finished eighth last season. Hoedlmoser said Vonn is now fully focusing on speed races in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, this weekend. "It's a logical step," Hoedlmoser said. "There was not enough time in the period where she was gone and did the physical training, to prepare for a slalom." Vonn, who trails overall leader Tina Maze of Slovenia by 785 points, said Sunday she had put the defense of her title out of her head. "(Maze) had the overall title a few weeks ago already," Vonn said. "When I decided to take a break I knew that I would most likely lose the overall title." In recent years, slalom has become Vonn's least suc-



Lindsey Vonn of the United States speeds down the hill on her way to take the fourth place in an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G, in St. Anton, Austria, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013.

Associated Press

cessful discipline. She won two races in the 2008-09 season but has not finished on the podium since placing second in Levi, Finland, in November 2009. □



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NBA Roundup

Continued from page 17

Alonzo Gee added 14 points for the Cavaliers, who fell behind by 19 points in the first quarter of their second stop on a five-game West Coast road trip. **THUNDER 87, TRAIL BLAZERS 83** **PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Kevin Durant had 33 points and Oklahoma City snapped Portland's nine-game winning streak at the Rose Garden. Russell Westbrook added 18 points and nine assists for the Thunder, who played without starters Serge Ibaka and Thabo Sefolosha because of injuries. LaMarcus Aldridge had 33 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who trailed by 11 points but pulled within one point on Nicolas Batum's 3-pointer with 21.9 seconds to go. Kendrick



New Orleans Hornets forward Anthony Davis (23) reacts as he collides with New York Knicks guard J.R. Smith and other Knicks defenders strip the ball from his hands in the second half of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013. The Knicks defeated the Hornets 100-87.
Associated Press

Perkins missed the first of two free throws and after a timeout Aldridge missed a tough fade-away jumper from about 20 feet out with 1.7 seconds left. Westbrook made a pair of foul shots for the final margin. **SPURS 106, TIMBERWOLVES 88** **SAN ANTONIO (AP)** —

Tony Parker scored 20 points to lead the San Antonio over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday night, extending the Spurs' home winning streak to 12 games. Gary Neal was 3 for 3 on 3-pointers in scoring 15 points for San Antonio, which beat Minnesota at home for the 16th straight

time. Tim Duncan added 14 points and nine rebounds and Tiago Splitter had 10 points. Manu Ginobili scored 12 points in the first half before leaving with a strained left hamstring. J.J. Barea scored 15 points, Nikola Pekovic had 14 and Luke Ridnour 13 for the Timberwolves. San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich was ejected with 7:22 remaining in the game following a double technical for arguing a foul called against Splitter on Barea. The ejection sparked an 11-0 run for the Spurs, including a dunk and two reverse layups by Splitter. **NETS 97, PACERS 86** **NEW YORK (AP)** — Deron Williams had 22 points and nine assists, Joe Johnson scored 20 points and Brooklyn rallied from 12 points down in the third quarter. Brook Lopez scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and also finished with nine rebounds to help the Nets win their season-high sixth straight. David West had 27 points to lead the Pacers. Paul George added 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Gerald Green also scored 15 points. Green made two free throws against his former team to give Indiana a 67-55 lead — its largest of the game — with 5½ minutes remaining in the third quarter. Brooklyn pulled to 75-69 by the end of the third, and began the fourth on a 26-8 run to take a 12-point lead on C.J. Watson's jumper with 2:08 remaining. **KNICKS 100, HORNETS 87** **NEW YORK (AP)** — Carmelo Anthony snapped out of a slow start by scoring 18 of his 27 points in the second quarter, and the Knicks ended their season-high, three-game losing streak. □

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Djokovic back on his favorite court in Australia

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Same Grand Slam, same court, same result. Only the year was different for Novak Djokovic — and the amount of time he needed on the bright blue hard surface at Rod Laver Arena. The Australian Open defending champion took his first step toward winning his third consecutive title at Melbourne Park — and fourth overall — with a 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 win over Paul-Henri Mathieu of France on Monday.

The match lasted 1 hour, 42 minutes, more than four hours faster than when the Serbian star was last on center court, his victory in last year's final over Rafael Nadal in a 5-hour, 53-minute marathon.

The win ran Djokovic's winning streak at Melbourne to 15 matches and his overall win-loss record to 33-5. Any wonder Djokovic calls the Australian Open, site of his first of five Grand Slams in 2008, his favorite major.

"It's great to be back in Australia playing on this court," Djokovic said.

On an opening day when Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams also easily won their first-round matches, Djokovic took his first step to becoming the first man to win three consecutive Australian Open titles in the Open era.

"Any achievement, especially if it's part of history, would mean a lot to me," Djokovic said. "I love this sport. This sport has been my life since I was 4 years old."

Djokovic lost a match to Australia's Bernard Tomic in the exhibition mixed-team Hopman Cup tournament this month, but said his win over Mathieu, who



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a forehand return to France's Paul-Henri Mathieu during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.
Associated Press

reached a career-high No. 12 ranking in 2008, was a good steppingstone for his second-round match against American Ryan Harrison, a 2-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 winner over Santiago Giraldo of Colombia.

Sharapova finished her first match of the year in 55 minutes, cruising to a 6-0, 6-0 win over Olga Puchkova to start proceedings on center court without showing any signs of trouble with her sore right collarbone.

The No. 2-ranked Sharapova, who lost the final to Victoria Azarenka here last year before going on to win the French Open, faced only two break points in the match and she saved both of those in the first game with aces. Sharapova withdrew from the Brisbane International earlier this month with a collarbone injury, saying she wanted to concentrate on being fit for Melbourne. She also skipped the Brisbane tournament last year before going on to reach the Australian Open final.

"After a couple of close games and a few break points, I certainly started to concentrate a bit better," she said. "Overall, I was happy with the way I

started, considering I didn't play any matches coming in." Sharapova has a potential third-round match against Venus Williams, who needed just an hour for her opening 6-1, 6-0 win over Galina Voskoboeva of Kazakhstan.

No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska won the last nine straight games in her opening 7-5, 6-0 win over Australian wild-card Bojana Bobusic 7-5, 6-0, and 2011 U.S. Open champion Samantha Stosur beat Chang Kai-chen of Taiwan 7-6 (3), 6-3 to end a run of five losses on her home courts in Australia.

No. 6 Li Na, who lost the Australian Open final before winning the 2011 French Open, had a 6-1, 6-3 win over Sesil Karatantcheva of Kazakhstan, while No. 11 Marion Bartoli, No. 18 Julia Gorges of Germany and No. 27 Sorana Cirstea of Romania also advanced. Former French Open champion and 13th-seeded Ana Ivanovic completed women's play for the day with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Melinda Czink of Hungary.

Among the men, fourth-seeded David Ferrer defeated Olivier Rochus of

Belgium 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 2010 Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych defeated Michael Russell 6-3, 7-5, 6-3; and No. 10 Nicolas Almagro of Spain beat American qualifier Steve Johnson 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-2.

Eighth-seeded Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia came back from two service breaks down in the second set and went on to beat local favorite Lleyton Hewitt 7-6 (4), 7-5, 6-3. It was Hewitt's 17th consecutive Australian Open, a tournament where he's only advanced past the fourth round once — when he lost in the final to Marat Safin in 2005. "To his credit, he raised his level and played some great points," Hewitt said of Tipsarevic. "He just played too well on the big points. He was going for everything at 3-0 (down), and it came off." Also advancing were No. 15 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland, No. 16 Kei Nishikori of Japan, No. 22 Fernando Verdasco of Spain, No. 26 Jurgen Melzer of Austria, 2006 finalist and 28th-seeded Marcos Baghdatis and No. 32 Ju-

lien Benneteau of France. Williams took command of her match early with a steady stream of winners and powerful serves.

She skipped last year's Australian Open due to illness and was warmly welcomed with applause as she entered the court. Williams had the biggest jump of any of the top players in 2012, moving from outside the top 100 to finish the year at No. 24.

"It's hard to play the first match in a major, first thing of the year, and that can be a lot of pressure," Williams said. "I did my best to just close it out." She's pleased the progress she made last year after a seven-month layoff due to Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue,

"I'm not a patient person," she said. "But I think what I have learned more than anything is for me to focus on the things I can accomplish and not to think about the things that I can't do." Her younger sister, Serena, was sitting in the crowd with coach Patrick Mouratoglou. □

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'Bodega clinics' draw interest of US health officials

SARAH VARNEY

© 2013 New York Times

HUNTINGTON PARK, Calif. —

The "bodega clinics" that line the bustling commercial streets of immigrant

County health officials describe the clinics as a parallel health care system, serving a vast number of uninsured Latino residents. Yet they say they have lit-

rick Dowling, the chairman of the family medicine department at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

the clinics in Southern California proved fruitless.

What is certain, however, is that despite their name, many of these clinics are actually private doctor's offices, not licensed clinics, which are required to report regularly to federal and state oversight bodies. It is a distinction that deeply concerns Kimberly Wyard, the chief executive of the Northeast Valley Health Corp., a nonprofit group that runs 13 accredited health clinics for low-income Southern Californians. "They are off the radar screen," Wyard said of the bodega clinics, "and it's unclear what they're doing."

But with deadlines set by the federal Affordable Care Act quickly approaching, health officials in Los Angeles are vexed over whether to embrace the clinics and bring them — selectively and gingerly — into the network of tightly regulated public and nonprofit health centers that are driven more by mission than by profit to serve the uninsured.

Health officials see in the clinics an opportunity to fill persistent and profound gaps in the county's strained safety net, including a chronic shortage of primary care physicians. By January 2014, up to 2 million uninsured Angelenos will need to enroll in Med-

icaid or buy insurance and find primary care.

And the clinics, public health officials point out, are already well established in the county's poorest neighborhoods, where they are meeting the needs of Spanish-speaking residents. The clinics also could continue to serve a market that the Affordable Care Act does not touch: illegal immigrants who are prohibited from getting health insurance under the law.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, the deputy director of community health for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, said bodega clinics — a term he seems to have coined — that agree to some scrutiny could be a good way of addressing the physician shortage in those neighborhoods.

"Where are we going to find those providers?" he said. "One logical place to consider looking is these clinics."

Los Angeles is not the only city with a sizable Latino population where the clinics have become a part of the streetscape. Health care providers in Phoenix and Miami say there are clinics in many Latino neighborhoods.

But their presence in parts of the Los Angeles area can be striking, with dozens in certain areas. □



A clinic catering to Latinos in Huntington Park, Calif. In Los Angeles County, storefront doctors' offices are servicing mostly uninsured Latinos, leaving officials to examine the clinics' place in the nation's health system.

(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

neighborhoods around Los Angeles are wedged between money order kiosks and pawnshops. These storefront offices, staffed with Spanish-speaking medical providers, treat ailments for cash: a doctor's visit is \$20 to \$40; a cardiology exam is \$120; and at one bustling clinic, a colonoscopy is advertised on an erasable board for \$700.

tle understanding of who owns and operates them, how they are regulated and what quality of medical care they provide. Few of these low-rent corner clinics accept private insurance or participate in Medicaid managed care plans.

"Someone has to figure out if there's a basic level of competence," said Dr. Pat-

rick Dowling, for one, has canvassed the clinics for years to document physician shortages as part of his research for the state. What he and others found was that the owners were reluctant to answer questions. Indeed, multiple attempts in recent weeks to interview owners and employees at a half-dozen of

Link between marijuana use and IQ drop challenged

MALCOLM RITTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A new analysis is challenging a report that suggests regular marijuana smoking during the teen years can lead to a long-term drop in IQ. The analysis says the statistical analysis behind that conclusion is flawed.

The original study, reported last August, included more than 1,000 people who'd been born in the town of Dunedin, New Zealand. Their IQ was tested at ages 13 and 38, and they were asked about marijuana use periodically between those ages.

Researchers at Duke University and elsewhere found that participants who'd reported becoming dependent on pot by age 18 showed a drop in IQ score between ages 13 and 38. The findings suggest pot is harmful to the adolescent brain, the researchers said.

Not so fast, says an analysis published online Monday by the Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences.

Ole Rogeberg of the Ragnar Frisch Center for Economic Research in Oslo, says the IQ trend might have nothing to do with pot. Rather, it may have emerged from differences among the study participants in socioeconomic status, or SES, which involves factors like income, education and occupation, he says.

He based his paper on a computer simulation. It traced what would happen to IQ scores over time if they were affected by differences in SES in ways suggested by

other research, but not by smoking marijuana. He found patterns that looked just like what the Duke study found.

In an interview, Rogeberg said he's not claiming that his alternative explanation is definitely right, just that the methods and evidence in the original study aren't enough to rule it out. He suggested further analyses the researchers

could do.

The Duke scientists, who learned of Rogeberg's analysis late last week, say they conducted new statistical tests to assess his proposed explanation. Their verdict: It's wrong. Rogeberg says they need to do still more work to truly rule it out.

Experts unconnected to the two papers said the Rogeberg paper doesn't overturn the original study. It "raises some interesting points and possibilities," but provides "speculation" rather than new data based on real people, said Dr. Duncan Clark, who studies alcohol and drug use in adolescents at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said observational studies of people like the Duke work can't definitively demonstrate that marijuana cause irreversible effects on the brain. In an email, she said Rogeberg's paper "looks sound" but doesn't prove that his alternative explanation is correct. □

Report: Apple cutting orders for iPhone 5 parts

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple shares are falling in premarket trading after The Wall Street Journal reported that the company has cut its orders for iPhone 5 components due to weaker-than-expected demand. The newspaper says two people it did not identify by name told it that Apple's first-quarter orders for iPhone 5 screens have dropped to about half of what the company had planned to order. The report says one of the sources told the newspaper that the U.S.-based company has also cut orders for components other than screens. The Journal says it was told Apple notified the suppliers of the order cut last month. Apple didn't immediately



In this Thursday, June 24, 2012 file photo, Jeremiah Ulibarri checks out his new iPhone 4 outside of an Apple store in Chicago.

Associated Press

return an email seeking \$18.81, or 3.6 percent, to comment. \$501.49 in premarket trading Monday

Apple shares dropped

E-book reading on the rise among young people

NEW YORK (AP) — E-books may finally be catching on with the toughest of customers: young people. A report commissioned by children's publisher Scholastic Inc. finds that 46 per-

cent of respondents aged 9-17 had read an e-book as of 2012, compared to just 25 percent in 2010. And around half of those who have not read an e-book say they want to do

so. But the appeal of paper remains. Around 80 percent of kids who read an e-book still read print books, according to Monday's report.

Samsung sells 100 million Galaxy S smartphones

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Samsung Electronics Co. said Monday that global sales of its Galaxy S smartphones surpassed 100 million units since the first model in the series was released less than three years ago.

Samsung said it has sold more than 25 million Galaxy S smartphones, 40 million Galaxy S II smartphones and 41 million Galaxy S III smartphones.

Samsung launched the first Galaxy S model at the end of May 2010, scrambling to catch up with Apple, which was reshaping the market with the iPhone.



In this a, Monday, Nov. 5, 2012, file photo, a man windowshop at a mobile phone shop near advertisement of Samsung's Galaxy S III smartphone in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

But Samsung was quick to narrow the gap with bigger smartphone makers. Research firm IHS iSuppli said

last month that Samsung beat Nokia in cellphone sales and Apple in smartphone sales last year.

Oracle says Java is fixed; feds maintain warning



This April 23, 2007 file photo shows the Java logo at Sun Microsystems' offices in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

RYAN NAKASHIMA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ora-

cle Corp. said Monday it has released a fix for the flaw in its Java software that raised an alarm from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last week. Even after the patch was issued, the federal agency continued to recommend that users disable Java in their Web browsers. "This and previous Java vulnerabilities have been widely targeted by attackers, and new Java vulnerabilities are likely to be discovered," DHS said Monday in an updated alert published on the website of its Computer Emergency Readiness Team. "To defend against this and future Java vulnerabilities, consider disabling Java in Web browsers until adequate updates are available."

The alert follows on the department's warning late Thursday. Java allows programs to run within websites and powers some advertising networks. Users who disable Java may not be able to see portions of websites that display real-time data such as stock prices, graphical menus, weather updates and ads. Vulnerability in the latest version, Java 7, was "being actively exploited," the department said.

Java 7 was released in 2011. Oracle said installing its "Update 11" will fix the

problem.

Security experts said that special code to take advantage of the weakness is being sold on the black market through so-called "Web exploit packs" to Internet abusers who can use it to steal credit card data, personal information or cause other harm.

The packs, sold for upwards of \$1,500 apiece, make complex hacker codes available to relative amateurs. This particular flaw even enables hackers to compromise legitimate websites by taking over ad networks. The result: users are redirected to malicious sites where damaging software can be loaded onto their computers.

The sale of the packs means malware exploiting the security gap is "going to be spread across the Internet very quickly," said Liam O'Murchu, a researcher with Symantec Corp. "If you have the opportunity to turn it off, you should." Oracle said it released two patches — to address the flaw highlighted by the government, as well as another flaw that the government said was "different but equally severe." As well, the patches set Java's default security level to "high" so that users will automatically be shown a prompt and given a chance to decline malicious software before it loads onto their computers.

Coca-Cola to address cloud over obesity

CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Coca-Cola became one of the world's most powerful brands by equating its soft drinks with happiness. Now, for the first time, it's addressing a growing cloud over the industry: obesity. The U.S.-based company on Monday will begin airing a two-minute ad during the highest-rated shows on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC in hopes of becoming a stronger voice in the debate over sodas and their impact on public health. The ad lays out Coca-Cola's record of providing drinks with fewer calories over the years and notes that weight gain is the result of consuming too many calories of any kind



Image shows a frame grab from a new Coca-Cola commercial.
(AP Photo/CocaCola)

— not just soda. Coca-Cola says the campaign will kick off a variety of moves that help address obesity in the year ahead, such as providing more diet options at soda fountains. For the world's No. 1 beverage company, the ads reflect the mounting pressures on the broader industry. Later this year, New York City is set to put into effect a first-in-the-nation cap on the size of soft drinks sold at restaurants, movie theaters, sports arenas and other venues. And when PepsiCo Inc., the No. 2 soda maker, recently signed a wide-ranging endorsement deal with pop singer Beyonce, critics called for the singer to drop the contract or donate the funds to groups that fund health initiatives. □

UPS drops \$6.9 billion deal for TNT Express

DAVID KOENIG
TOBY STERLING
AP Business Writers

UPS scrapped plans to grow in Europe through the acquisition of Dutch delivery company TNT Express



United Parcel Service Inc. has ditched its euro5.2 billion (US\$6.9 billion) takeover of TNT Express NV after learning that European regulators would reject the deal in its current form.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

because European regulators were getting ready to reject the \$6.9 billion deal. It would have been the largest acquisition in UPS history.

UPS had offered in March to buy TNT, Europe's second-largest delivery

company, to better compete with Europe's largest, Deutsche Post's DHL. Regulators objected, saying the deal would reduce competition in the market for express delivery of small

packages in Europe. UPS said Monday that it had proposed "tangible remedies," but after meeting with regulators on Jan. 11, the Atlanta-based company told TNT it saw no prospect of the deal being approved.

UPS CEO Scott Davis said in a statement Monday that he was "extremely disappointed" with the stance taken by regulators. Shares of United Parcel Service Inc., the world's largest package delivery company, rose 1.5 percent to \$79.06 in midday trading in New York.

Analysts said UPS could still pursue smaller acquisitions and also might boost its dividend or take some other action to reward shareholders.

TNT shares plunged in Europe. Although it will receive a \$265.5 million (€200 million) breakup fee from UPS, TNT faces an uncertain future on its own. The 42 percent drop in its share price wiped off nearly €2 billion from its market value.

The European Commission, which would not comment, must publish its review of the deal by Feb. 5. The Commission reviews major corporate mergers and acquisitions to ensure they do not hurt fair com-

petition in the market. It has the power to block deals or to demand concessions, such as the sale of business parts, to safeguard market balance.

UPS had earmarked \$5 billion in cash for the purchase of TNT. Sterne Agee analyst Jeffrey Kauffman said he expected the company to now use some of that for dividends or share buybacks. He said UPS could also pursue smaller acquisitions, especially in Asia.

Jim Corridore, equity analyst for S&P Capital IQ, said UPS can still "build a stronger network in Europe through smaller acquisitions and internal growth." Before UPS jumped in, some analysts thought rival FedEx Corp. might make an offer for TNT, but FedEx executives said in March they had no plans to do so. U.S. analysts don't expect FedEx to reconsider in the near-term because it's in the midst of a major restructuring of its Express air cargo service. □

Chicago RTA files suit against United subsidy

DON BABWIN
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A transportation agency on Monday filed a lawsuit alleging that United Airlines is falsely claiming to buy huge amounts of jet fuel out of a small, rural Illinois office that doesn't even have a computer to avoid paying tens of millions of dollars in taxes in Chicago, where the purchases are allegedly being made.

The Regional Transportation Authority alleges United Aviation Fuels Corp., a subsidiary of United Airlines, has operated a "sham" office in the DeKalb County community of Sycamore since 2001 after reaching an agreement to pay the town more than \$300,000 a year — a fraction of what it would have owed in sales taxes in Chicago and Cook County.

United officials say they have not seen the lawsuit, but that the Sycamore operation is legal.

"We buy fuel in Sycamore,"

spokeswoman Megan McCarthy said in an email.

The RTA, which contends the office has no computer and is staffed by one per-

son, business occurring in the office.

"Whoever is out there is not negotiating hundreds of millions of dollars worth



A United Airlines 787 Dreamliner arrives at O'Hare international Airport in Chicago, from Houston.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

son who only works part time, said consultants visited the site on a recent weekday and found it locked with nobody inside. The agency said judging from the few chairs and empty desks seen through a window, there is little, if

any, business occurring in the office. "Whoever is out there is not negotiating hundreds of millions of dollars worth of jet fuel," said Jordan Matyas, the RTA's chief of staff. He said any negotiations for fuel — as well as delivery scheduling, accounting, credit approval and administrative decisions — are being done in the Willis Tower in down-

town Chicago, where United is headquartered.

The RTA alleges that American Airlines is engaged in a similar "sham" business out of an office it rents in Sycamore's City Hall. But Matyas said American was not included in the lawsuit because the airline remains in bankruptcy. He added that the RTA does plan to pursue legal action against American at some point.

The two airlines are spending a staggering amount of money on fuel. Based on sales taxes that were paid in Sycamore, the RTA estimates that in 2012 alone the two airlines spent "approximately \$1.2 billion on jet fuel the airlines" for jets at O'Hare, Matyas said in an email, adding that it is unclear how much of that was later sold to other airlines.

United officials said they have not received a copy of the complaint, but "believe that any such suit would be without merit." □

Stocks move sideways on Wall Street; Apple sours

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple held down the Standard & Poor's 500, pushing it further below the five-year high it reached last week, after the technology giant's stock sank following a report that demand for the iPhone 5 may be weaker than expected. The Dow Jones industrial average edged higher. The Dow rose 18.89 points to 13,507.32 Monday, having fallen as much as 29 points at the start of the day. The S&P 500 fell 1.37 point to 1,470.68. The Nasdaq composite index fell 8.13 points to 3,117.50. The S&P 500 closed at a five-year high of 1,472 on Thursday, following a solid start to the fourth-quarter earnings reporting period and amid optimism that the outlook for global growth is brightening.

Apple's stock, which isn't included in the Dow but accounts for 10.3 percent of the Nasdaq index and 3.7 percent of the S&P, slid \$18.55 to \$501.75 after The Wall Street Journal reported that the company has reduced its orders for iPhone 5 components due to weak demand. Apple slipped below \$500 a share for the first time in nearly a year in early trading. The stock has slumped 28 percent since closing

at a record \$702.10 in September.

Computer maker Dell surged \$1.41, or 13 percent, to \$12.29 following a report that it's in talks with buyout firms. The company is considering going private with at least two firms, Bloomberg news reported, citing unidentified sources. Earnings reporting will pick up this week with many big U.S. banks, including JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America releasing results.

"The market is definitely in wait and see mode," said Brian Gendreau, a market strategist at Cetera Financial Group.

Investors will be scrutinizing revenues to assess wheth-



A woman looks at a portrait of Steve Jobs on the memorial to late Apple Corp. co-founder in the Techno Park of ITMO University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Apple's stock slid \$18.55 to \$501.75 after The Wall Street Journal reported that the company has reduced its orders for iPhone 5 components due to weak demand. (AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

er the drawn-out debate over the "fiscal cliff" had an impact on consumer spending. A series of tax hikes and spending cuts due to come into effect Jan. 1 were only averted by a last-minute deal.

Earnings growth has likely peaked for now because companies have been relying on cost cutting, rather than growth, to boost profitability, says Ron Sloan, a senior portfolio manager at Invesco. Analysts currently forecast that fourth-quarter 2012 earnings for S&P 500 companies will increase 3.3 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ. That compares with 8.4 percent from the same period a year earlier. □

Senior deal maker Novelli returns to UBS

JULIA WERDIGIER
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LONDON — Piero Novelli is returning to the Swiss bank UBS as global chairman of mergers and acquisitions, as the firm aims to win clients and improve cooperation among the regional offices.

Novelli left UBS as global head of mergers and acquisitions in 2009 to take some time off and in 2011 joined the Japanese bank Nomura as global co-head

of the merger advice business. Novelli will report to Andrea Orcel, chief executive of UBS' investment bank. The two previously worked to-

gether at Merrill Lynch.

"As chairman of global M&A, Piero will help us strengthen and drive forward our global advisory practice and ensure greater global connectivity," Orcel wrote in an internal memo.

"His vast industry experience will undoubtedly add value in delivering superior advice and solutions to our clients."

Novelli is Orcel's first senior hire since Orcel took over as chief executive of the UBS investment bank in November.

Orcel has had a mandate to fix a business that had suffered from losses,

legal scandals and dwindling morale among some staff members. Orcel is shrinking the investment banking operation to become more of a support for UBS' more successful wealth management operation.

UBS in October said it had started to cut as many as 10,000 jobs to reduce costs and shrink its investment banking operations. Over the next two years, UBS plans to reduce its workforce by as much as 16 percent, to 54,000.

Orcel said previously he might hire individual bankers to help UBS win important clients and strengthen its foothold in its European home market. □

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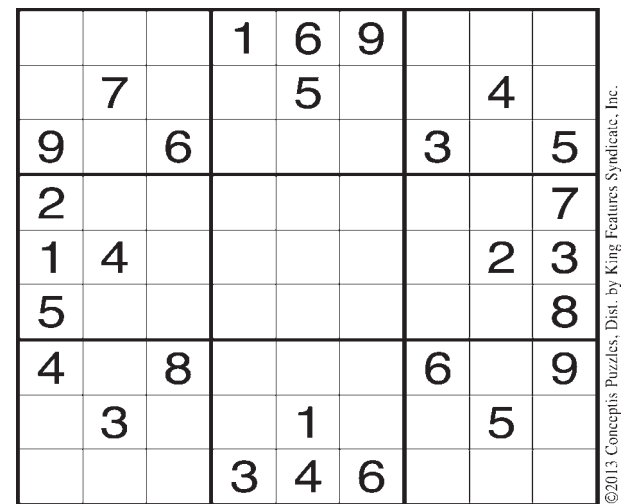
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	4	5	8	1	2	7	6	3	9
	3	7	5	2	9	1	4	8	6
	8	4	2	7	3	6	5	9	1
	9	1	6	8	5	4	3	7	2
	6	9	4	5	7	3	2	1	8
	2	3	1	6	8	9	7	5	4
	5	8	7	4	1	2	9	6	3

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OH, IT'S TO SHOW THEY'RE LOUNGING ON VACATION

facebook

SEE? THEY SNAP FOOT PHOTOS ON LAZY, RELAXING BACKGROUNDS LIKE BEACHES OR POOLS...

OR IN SOME CASES, THEIR DESKS!

CLICKETA CLICK CLICK

1-15

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115
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ACROSS

1 Women's
undergarments

5 ____ across;
span

10 Injection

14 Apiece

15 In the know

16 Golfer's target

17 To ____; exactly

18 Giggle

19 Frank; candid

20 Hopelessness

22 Speech

24 Long ____; in the
distant past

25 Item of value

26 Army chaplain

29 Wrath

30 Stop

34 Difficult

35 Use a plus sign

36 Merited

37 "You ____ My
Sunshine"

38 Devoutly

40 Papa

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22		23				
			24				25							
26	27	28				29				30		31	32	33
34					35				36					
37					38				39			40		
41			42				43				44			
45						46				47				
			48		49				50					
51	52	53						54				55	56	57
58						59		60				61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

/15/13

6	Pitcher with a flaring spout	S	H	A	V	E		S	L	O	B		S	C	A	B
7	Ooh and ____; express delight	L	E	G	A	L		H	I	D	E		H	A	U	L
8	Line made in folding	I	R	E	N	E		A	L	D	A		U	R	G	E
9	Obeys	P	O	D	I	A		T	R	Y		T	I	T	L	E
10	Not as tall							S	N	A	P		M	E	N	T
11	Optimism							U	P	S	H		O	T		
12	Bullring shouts							L	A	N	C		E			
13	Bills with Hamilton's face	T	I	C				R	E	C	U		A	R	I	S
21	Years lived	A	T	O	P				R	A	C		E	R		S
23	Go bad	H	A	T	E				M	I	S		E	R		W
25	Strenuous; grueling							R	A	K	E		D		B	E
26	____ out; get rid	N	O	S	T	R		I	L		S		E	A	R	
		A	C	T	U	A		L		S	Y	L	L	A	B	L
		C	H	A	R				L	E	A	N		I	N	L
		H	E	R	B				E	R	G	O		S	C	O
		O	R	E	S				D	E	A	D		M	E	T

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DOWN

- 1 Drop of sweat
- 2 At any ____;
nonetheless
- 3 Highest cards
- 4 Astronaut Alan
- 5 Numerical
comparison

28 Great fear
29 Wedding words
31 Mountains of
South America
32 Makes airtight
33 WWI ace —
Rickenbacker
35 Lend a hand to
36 Leprechaun
38 Ride a bike

51 Pretense
52 Walking stick
53 Popular songs
54 Actor Gregory
55 "The ____
Ranger"
56 Boys
57 "____ 'n' Andy"
60 Pass away

Expert: Online sales gains to peak

SUSAN THURSTON

© 2012 Tampa Bay Times

NEW YORK - Shoppers spent more money online than ever during the holiday season, but the trend toward huge gains won't last forever.

That's the forecast of Sucharita Mulpuru, vice president of Forrester Research, which released its 2013 State of Retailing Online survey at the National Retail Federation's convention.

"Online retail is the pawn that is now the queen," she told an audience of retail executives gathered Sunday at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City.

Where online sales used to be a small part of a retailer's business, it has become a powerful tool, she said, amounting to about 10 percent of a company's sales on average. Online retail sales totaled

\$226 billion in 2012, up from \$177 billion in 2010.

"Those figures will continue to rise but not as rapidly because the pool for potential new online customers is only so big," she said. And while many retailers will continue to develop mobile shopping for smartphones and tablets, those sales reflected just a small portion - \$2 billion - of total online sales last year.

"Some retailers have been burned getting caught up in the hype of mobile," Mulpuru said. "The number of transactions done over phones is very small." Likewise, the number of sales through links on Facebook, Twitter and other social media is low.

Online retailers surveyed for the report said they will get back to basics this year by improving checkout, product details and the user experience.

They also will try to increase the average order amount for repeat customers and target international markets.

Retailers will continue to face challenges associated with Web and mobile technology. □

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198356A

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198381

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198169

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Botica San Nicolas Tel: 584-5712

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Oranjestad 582-4000
Noord 587-0009
Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

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Emergency 911
Police 100
Fire Dept. 115
Fire Dept. II 582-1108
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(FADA) Tel: 583-2999
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Tel: 582-4433
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Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989
Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

New cemetery endangers Egypt's ancient necropolis

LEE KEATHSARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

DAHSHOUR, Egypt (AP) — In this more than 4,500-year-old pharaonic necropolis, Egypt's modern rituals of the dead are starting to encroach on its ancient ones. Steamrollers flatten the desert sand, and trucks haul in bricks as villagers build rows of tombs in a new cemetery nearly up to the feet of Egypt's first pyramids and one of its oldest temples.

The illegal expansion of a local cemetery has alarmed antiquities experts, who warn the construction endangers the ancient, largely unexplored complex of Dahshour, where pharaoh Sneferu experimented with the first true, smooth-sided pyramids that his son Khufu — better known as Cheops — later took to new heights at the more famous Giza Plateau nearby.

The encroachment also reflects the turmoil of today's Egypt, two years after the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Police, still in disarray since the revolution, do nothing to enforce regulations. Fired up by the sense of rebellion against authority, Egyptians feel little fear of taking what they want, sometimes to redress neglect or corruption by authorities, sometimes just for personal gain. Also, as the new Islamist rulers and their opponents struggle over the country's identity, experts fear Egypt's ancient monuments, which hardliners see as pagan, could pay the price in neglect.

In the case of Dahshour, villagers say their cemeteries are full and authorities don't give permits or land for new ones. So they



This Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013 photo, shows the local cemetery of the ancient historic site of Dahshour, Egypt.

Associated Press



took matters into their own hands and grabbed what they insist is empty desert to erect family tombs.

"The dearest thing for us is burying our dead," said Mohammed Abdel-Qader, a resident of nearby Manshiet Dahshour. "This land here is wide and flat, it's a valley. Where are the antiquities they talk about? ... We have no antiquities here."

The problem is not just at Dahshour. An explosion of illegal building the past two years is endangering Egypt's ancient treasures

around the country, authorities say. Locals living next to some of most beloved pharaonic sites — including the famed Giza Pyramids outside Cairo — are seizing land, building homes, laying farmland or selling off parcels, said Mohammed Younes, head of antiquities for Dahshour.

At the same time, looting has become more brazen in many places. Just a few weeks ago, several guards at Dahshour were shot and wounded when they confronted thieves doing an illegal dig during the night,

he said.

The cemetery expansion is the most dangerous encroachment yet because of how close it comes to the Dahshour monuments, which are on the UNESCO World Heritage site list, Younes said. Moreover, Dahshour is largely unexcavated, since the area was a closed military zone until 1996. What remains buried is believed to be a treasure trove shedding light on the largely unknown early dynasties.

"When you build something over archaeological site, you change everything. We can't dig in and know what is inside," Younes told The Associated Press. "This is the only virgin site in all of Egypt."

The area is part of the vast Memphis necropolis where pharaohs built their monumental funeral complexes stretching south from Giza in the desert along the Nile Valley.

The construction started suddenly about two weeks ago, apparently when one villager added a new tomb in the desert on the

edge of an existing cemetery, guards and residents said. Word went out and hundreds of residents from at least four neighboring villages descended on the site to build tombs of their own, up a small desert valley.

Police did nothing to stop them — nor did the military, still stationed nearby. The tombs are small complexes on their own, built mainly of cheap white bricks. Each is a walled courtyard with multiple enclosed niches where multiple family members can be buried.

Rows of them now cover several acres inside the UNESCO-defined antiquities zone of Dahshour, coming to within 150 meters (yards) of Sneferu's Valley Temple. The site is the first known such valley temple, which later each pharaoh would build in connection with his pyramid.

Adjacent to the construction is the crumbled 3,800-year-old Black Pyramid of Amenemhat III, an area that has faced heavy looting over the past two years. Just beyond towers Sneferu's Bent Pyramid, dating some 700 years earlier, with its distinctive bent sides believed to have been caused when the builders had to correct a too-steep angle of ascent half-way through construction. Farther away is the Red Pyramid, in which Sneferu's builders got the job right, producing the first smooth-sided pyramid, evolving from the stepped structures built by earlier dynasties.

The state minister of antiquities Mohammed Ibrahim said in a statement Monday that an order had been issued to remove the construction and the Interior Ministry, in charge of police, had been asked to carry it out. "The financial resources of the ministry are not enough" to protect the sites, it said.

The question is whether it will be implemented. Younes said the military would have to get involved since police have refused to act. □

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Coroner releases new report on Natalie Wood death



A Dec. 1, 1981 file photo shows actress Natalie Wood.

Associated Press

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Some of the bruises found on Natalie Wood's body may have occurred before the actress drowned in the waters off Southern California more than 30 years ago, according to a newly released coroner's report on one of Hollywood's most mysterious deaths.

The case took another twist Monday when officials released a 10-page addendum to Wood's 1981 autopsy

report that cites unexplained bruises and scratches on Wood's face and arms as significant factors that led to officials changing her death certificate last year from a drowning to "drowning and other undetermined factors."

Officials were careful about their conclusions because they lacked several pieces of evidence for their review.

Bruises on Wood's arms, a scratch on her neck and superficial abrasions to the

actress' face may have occurred before Wood ended up in the waters off Catalina Island in November 1981, but coroner's officials wrote they could not definitely determine when the injuries occurred.

The findings have not altered a sheriff's department investigation into Wood's death, which a spokesman described as ongoing.

Wood, 43, was on a yacht with her actor-husband Robert Wagner, co-star Christopher Walken and the boat captain in 1981 before somehow ending up in the water.

Investigators initially reported that there were scratches on its hull, but Wood's fingernails were not preserved for analysis. The initial autopsy report said it was likely the bruises happened when Wood drowned. "Most of the bruises on the body are superficial and probably sustained at the time of drowning," the initial autopsy report stated.

Several of the original coroner's investigators who worked on the case were re-interviewed, and officials attempted to test some items taken during the investigation into Wood's death and an autopsy, but they could not be located.

"The location of the bruises, the multiplicity of the bruises, lack of head trauma, or facial bruising support bruising having occurred prior to entry in the water," the amended report states. "Since there are unanswered questions and limited additional evidence available for evaluation, it is opined by this Medical Examiner that the manner of death should be left as undetermined," Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Lakshmanan Sathya-vagiswaran wrote in the report completed in June. Officials also considered that Wood wasn't wearing a life jacket and had no history of suicide attempts and didn't leave a note as reasons to amend its report and the death certificate. Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said the agency has known about the findings in the newly released autopsy report for several months and it does not change the status of the investigation, which remains open. He said Wagner is not considered a suspect in Wood's death.

Wood, famed for roles in such films as "West Side Story" and "Rebel Without a Cause," was nominated for three Academy Awards during her lifetime. Her death stunned the world and has remained one of Hollywood's most enduring mysteries. The original detective on the case, Wagner and Walken have all said they considered her death an accident.

Conflicting versions of what happened on the yacht have contributed to the mystery of how the actress died. Wood, Wagner and Walken had all been drinking heavily in the hours before the actress disappeared.

The newly released report states there are conflicting

statements about when the boat's occupants discovered Wood was missing. The report estimates her time of death was around midnight, and she was reported missing at 1:30 a.m. □



This Sept. 19, 2012 file photo shows singer-actor Justin Timberlake at the premiere of "Trouble With the Curve" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Justin Timberlake releases new song 'Suit and Tie'

NEW YORK (AP) — Mr. "SexyBack" is back.

Justin Timberlake released his new single, "Suit and Tie," late Sunday night. It features rapper Jay-Z.

The upbeat jam is the 31-year-old's first musical offering since 2006's critically acclaimed "FutureSex/LoveSounds." His third solo album, "The 20/20 Experience," will be out later this year.

In a letter posted on his website, Timberlake said he began recording music in June. He wrote that the "inspiration for this really came out of the blue."

Timberlake co-wrote and co-produced "Suit and Tie" with Timbaland, who produced much of the Grammy-winning "FutureSex/LoveSounds."

The buzz around the pop star's return to music kicked off Friday when he posted a video on his website that showed him walking into a studio, putting on headphones and saying: "I'm ready." □

French 'Switched' star living the American dream

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gilles Marini has made a name for himself in Hollywood, thanks to roles on ABC Family's "Switched at Birth" and "Brothers & Sisters" and competing on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 36-year-old was born in France and didn't make his acting debut until he was 29 and living in the U.S.

"I'm an American product," Marini said in a recent interview. "I never worked a day in my life in France in this business. It's funny because my wife said not long ago, 'Oh, you are French, but you are an American actor.' And now an American citizen. ... It's funny. Everything has been done in America."

While Marini would like to make a film in France and cites French filmmaker Luc Besson as someone he

would like to work with, he says it's not necessary to his career.

"Don't forget 90 percent of the actors in France, their dream is to come here. I'm here. Why go back, you know? Except if it's a project that would matter," he said.

On "Switched at Birth," Marini plays Angelo Sorrento, the father of a teenage daughter who was switched in the hospital as a newborn with another baby. The two teens grew up in very different environments.

There's more to the show than its soap opera-sounding title. Some of the other characters are deaf, and their scenes are performed using American Sign Language with open-captioning.

The series, which also stars D.W. Moffett and Lea Thompson, will air an all-



This Dec. 4, 2012 photo shows French actor Gilles Marini in New York. Marini stars in the ABC Family series, "Switched at Birth."

Associated Press

ASL episode in March, told from the perspective of its deaf characters.

Marini believes "Switched" is helping both hearing and deaf people understand each other better. □



This undated publicity photo provided by PBS shows, from left, Elizabeth McGovern as Lady Grantham, Hugh Bonneville as Lord Grantham, Dan Stevens as Matthew Crawley, Penelope Wilton as Isobel Crawley, Allen Leech as Tom Branson, Jim Carter as Mr. Carson, and Phyllis Logan as Mrs. Hughes, from the TV series, "Downton Abbey."

Associated Press

'Downton Abbey' gets early iTunes showing

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California

(AP) — Select "Downton Abbey" fans are in for an early viewing treat and bragging rights.

Apple said Monday that people in North America who hold iTunes season passes will be able to see this season's last three episodes of "Downton" before they air.

The period drama's second season was the best-selling TV series on iTunes last year, Apple said, without disclosing the numbers.

The exclusive preview of a TV series is the first for iTunes, the company said. The third season of "Downton Abbey" began Jan. 6 with an episode that drew nearly 8 million viewers, quadrupling PBS' average prime-time audience. The drama about British landed gentry and their household servants stars Hugh Bonneville, Dan Stevens and Michelle Dockery.

Episodes are available beginning Jan. 29 on iTunes. The season finale airs Feb. 17 on PBS' "Masterpiece" showcase.

Whether iTunes viewers can hold their tongues, spoilers about major plot twists already are out because the series has aired in Britain.

That's raised questions about whether PBS should have aired "Downton" concurrently with its ITV fall debut in the U.K.

Speaking to the Television Critics Association on Monday, PBS chief Paula Keger said putting "Downton" in the teeth of the competitive U.S. fall TV season may not serve the show or its audience. □

Directors Guild honors documentary filmmakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The AIDS chronicle "How to Survive a Plague," the military rape study "The Invisible War" and "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry," an examination of the dissident Chinese artist, are among nominees for the documentary prize at the Directors Guild of America Awards.

The contenders announced Monday all are first-time nominees for the guild honor, including "How to Survive a Plague" director David France, "In-

visible War" filmmaker Kirby Dick, and Alison Klayman, director of "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry."

The other nominees are Malik Bendjelloul's "Searching for Sugar Man," a portrait of 1970s singer-songwriter Rodriguez and Lauren Greenfield's "The Queen of Versailles," the story of a wealthy family's downturn amid the U.S. recession.

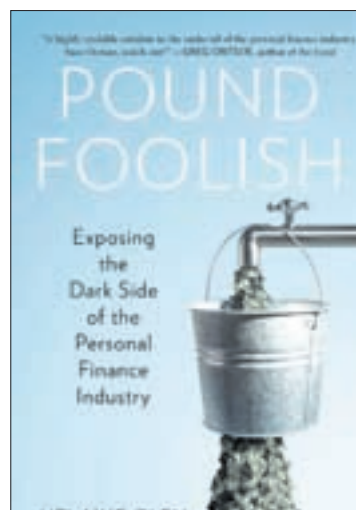
Winners will be announced at a Directors Guild dinner Feb. 2. □



This undated publicity photo released by courtesy Sony Pictures Classics shows Rodriguez in a scene from the documentary film, "Searching for Sugar Man."

Associated Press

Review: Personal finance industry gets drubbing



This book cover image released by Portfolio/Penguin shows "Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry," by Helaine Olen.

Associated Press

LAURA IMPELLIZZERI

Associated Press

"Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry" (Portfolio/Penguin), by Helaine Olen

After the financial crisis began in 2008, it suddenly became OK, even desirable, to talk about the illogic of ballooning borrowing and runaway stocks — and the inevitability that bubbles pop. For years, financial journalists had been required to "balance" their realization that lending had come loose from its moorings with industry assertions that things simply worked differently now. In 2008, we finally could say the emperor — the over-availability of all types of debt, the expectation that markets would heal all ills — had no clothes. We no longer had to wait for his side of the story.

That was a good thing. It made possible a whole new genre of nonfiction — highly readable deconstructions of how regulatory and moral gaps spawn financial excess and contributed to the collapse. There are even subgenres, including half-investigation-half-confessions. It is in this burgeoning category that Helaine Olen presents "Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry." Olen is taking on the sellers of a particularly insidious

form of snake oil, the idea that if you try really hard — and maybe pay \$29.95 for a book or \$89.95 for an online "membership" or even more to attend a live program — you, too, can achieve financial success. A former Los Angeles Times reporter who made a career interviewing people about their personal finances and getting them professional advice, Olen opens with a rundown of major self-promoters in the field.

Taking a thorough and deserved drubbing are Suze Orman ("rebuilding America one wallet at a time"), David Bach ("the Latte Factor"), Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko ("The Millionaire Next Door"), and Dave Ramsey (with seminars in Cancun and in churches and military bases across the U.S. promoting the elimination of personal debt). He's particularly galling, given that he and his wife filed for bankruptcy protection in 1990, and his main recommendation is to get unemotional, stay out of debt and avoid bankruptcy. His prescription at www.daverramsey.com for a family living on \$5,000 a month after taxes — far more than the U.S. median income — includes paying \$1,250 for housing and \$350 for health care. That's a great idea, just not a reality for most middle-class Americans. Many of these self-styled advisers look absurd on close examination. And a huge red flag should pop up for anyone who knows that Orman largely refuses to invest in the same stocks and funds that she frequently promotes.

Olen then translates the doublespeak of traditional personal finance institutions to reveal lots more hot air. There are mutual funds and retirement plans promoted for their safety that actually charge fees so high they can cut an account's value by 28 percent over time (that's from a U.S. Labor Department report about 401(k) plans). □

Revolutionary Language



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Listen closely.

That sound you hear is the sound of a cultural paranoia by people who have lost their grip on the reins of power, and on reality, and who fear the worst is coming.

And they are preparing for it, whatever it may be – a war, a revolution, an apocalypse.

These extremists make sensible, reasonable gun control hard to discuss, let alone achieve in this country, because they skew the conversations away from common-sense solutions on which both rational gun owners and non-gun owners can agree.

These people, a vocal minority, have extreme fears – gun confiscation, widespread civil instability, a tyrannical government – from which they are preparing to defend themselves with arsenals of weapons and stockpiles of ammunition.

If you pay attention to the right-wing's rhetoric, you can hear a string of code words that feed the fears of these people and paralyze progress.

A collection of conservative groups have declared Jan. 19, the weekend celebrating President Barack Obama's inauguration and Martin Luther King's Birthday, as Gun Appreciation Day.

In a press release, the event chairman, Larry Ward, said, "The Obama administration has shown that it is more than willing to trample the Constitution to impose its dictates upon the American people."

Using the word "dictates" is a subtle, but intentional, effort to frame the president as dangerous.

Andrew P. Napolitano, a Fox News analyst, said in a video posted Thursday on the network's GretaWire blog: "Here's the dirty little secret about the Second Amendment, the Second Amendment was not written in order to protect your right to shoot deer, it was written to protect your right to shoot tyrants if they take over the government. How about chewing on that one."

He went even further in a piece in The Washington Times, saying that the Second Amendment "protects the right to shoot tyrants, and it protects the right to shoot at them effectively, with the same instruments they would use upon us."

Who are Napolitano's tyrants here? Is this government take-

over theoretical, imminent, in progress or a fait accompli?

Ward went so far as to say on CNN: "I believe that Gun Appreciation Day honors the legacy of Dr. King." He continued: "The truth is, I think Martin Luther King would agree with me if he were alive today that if African-Americans had been given the right to keep and bear arms from day one of the country's founding, perhaps slavery might not have been a chapter in our history. And I believe wholeheartedly that it's essential to liberty."

Set aside, if you can, what would most likely be King's horror at the association, and look at that language. Pay particular attention to the suggestion that guns are an essential guard against slavery's resurgence in this country. And who would be the slaves and who the enslavers?

As the Southern Poverty Law Center said in a spring 2012 report, there has been a surging number of so-called patriot groups since 2008 when Barack Obama was first elected president.

"The swelling of the Patriot movement since that time has been astounding. From 149 groups in 2008, the number of Patriot organizations skyrocketed to 512 in 2009, shot up again in 2010 to 824, and then, last year, jumped to 1,274."

(According to the center, "Generally, Patriot groups define themselves as opposed to the 'New World Order,' engage in groundless conspiracy theorizing, or advocate or adhere to extreme antigovernment doctrines.")

The center also points out: "Fears of impending gun control or weapons confiscations, either by the government or international agencies, also run rampant in antigovernment circles. As a result, many anti-government activists believe that being well armed is a must. The militia movement engages in paramilitary training aimed at protecting citizens from this feared impending government crackdown."

That's why it is both shocking and predictable that James Yeager, the CEO of a Tennessee company that trains civilians in weapons and tactical skills, posted a video online Wednesday (since removed but still viewable at rawstory.com) saying he was going to start killing people if gun control efforts moved forward. He said, and I quote:

"I'm telling you that if that happens, it's going to spark a civil war, and I'll be glad to fire the first shot. I'm not putting up with it. You shouldn't put up with it. And I need all you patriots to start thinking about what you're going to do, load your damn mags, make sure your rifle's clean, pack a backpack with some food in it and get ready to fight."

Again, calling the "patriots" to arms is, I think, no accident. Chew on that. □



The Obama Synthesis



ROSS DOUTHAT
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As both his critics and admirers argue, the nomination of Chuck Hagel as secretary of defense last week tells us something important about Barack Obama's approach to foreign policy. But so does the man who was nominated alongside Hagel, to far less controversy and attention: John Brennan, now head of the White House's counterterrorism efforts, and soon to be the director of the CIA.

Both men were intimately involved in foreign policy debates during George W. Bush's administration, but had very different public profiles. As a CIA official, Brennan publicly defended some of Bush's most controversial counterterrorism policies, including the "rendition" of terror suspects for interrogation in foreign countries. As a senator, Hagel was one of the few prominent Republicans to (eventually) turn against the war in Iraq. Now it's fitting that Obama has nominated them together, because his foreign policy has basically synthesized their respective Bush-era perspectives. Like the once-hawkish Hagel, Obama has largely rejected Bush's strategic vision of America as the agent of a sweeping transformation of the Middle East, and retreated from the military commitments that this revolutionary vision required. And with this retreat has come a willingness to make substantial cuts in the Pentagon's budget – cuts that Hagel will be expected to oversee.

But the Brennan nomination crystallizes the ways in which Obama has also cemented

and expanded the Bush approach to counterterrorism. Yes, waterboarding is no longer with us, but in its place we have a far-flung drone campaign – overseen and defended by Brennan – that deals death, even to American citizens, on the say-so of the president and a secret administration "nominations" process.

Meanwhile, the imprimatur of a liberal president means that other controversial Bush-era counterterror policies are more secure than ever. Just last month, for instance, while Congress was embroiled in furious partisan arguments over the fiscal cliff, the practice of warrantless wiretapping was reaffirmed with broad bipartisan support. To the extent that it's possible to define an "Obama Doctrine," then, it's basically the Hagel-Brennan two-step. Fewer boots on the ground, but lots of drones in the air. Assassination, yes; nation-building, no. An imperial presidency with a less-imperial global footprint.

This is a popular combination in a country that's tired of war but still remembers 9/11 vividly. Indeed, Obama's foreign policy has been an immense political success: He's co-opted foreign policy realists, neutralized anti-war Democrats and isolated Republican hawks.

This success, in turn, has given him a freer hand to choose appointees who embody his worldview. The left objected, successfully, when Brennan was floated as a possibility for CIA director after Obama's 2008 victory, but the opposition is likely to be weaker this time around. Hagel's hawkish opponents have a slightly better chance, mostly because his views on Iran and Israel are more dovish than the White House's own stated positions. But the campaign against his nomination has often been more desperate than effective, offering tissue-thin charges of anti-Semitism and embarrassingly opportunistic criticisms of

Hagel's record on gay rights.

If Hagel does get through, it will be the clearest sign yet that Obama enjoys more trust – and with it, more latitude – on foreign policy than any Democrat since Harry Truman. And in many ways he's earned it: His mix of caution and aggression has thus far avoided major military disasters (an underrated virtue in presidents), prevented major terror attacks and put an end to America's most infamous foe.

But that's a provisional judgment, contingent on events to come. The Obama way of statecraft has offered a plausible course correction after the debacles of the Bush era, but the ripples from many of his biggest choices – to leave Iraq outright, to surge and then withdraw in Afghanistan, to intervene more forcefully in Libya than in Syria – are still spreading, and the ultimate success of those policies is still very much in doubt. Likewise with his looming defense cuts, whose wisdom depends entirely on what actually is trimmed.

Foreign policy is always a balancing act, in which no ideological system can guarantee success, and no effective action is without cost. The recent careers of the two nominees illustrate this point. Hagel was absolutely right to decide that the Iraq war was a blunder, but he was dead wrong (as was Obama) to then assume that the 2007 surge – a salvage job, but a brave and necessary one – would only make the situation worse. The drone campaign that Brennan has overseen has undoubtedly weakened al-Qaida. But it's also killed innocents, fed anti-American sentiment and eroded the constraints on executive power in troubling ways. These are not reasons to deny them the chance to serve this president in his second term. But they are reasons to ask them hard questions, and to look carefully for places where Obama's post-Bush course correction may need to be corrected in its turn. □

Brooklyn celebrates its own Miss America - sort of

VIVIAN YEE

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — When the news rippled through the bars, cafes and organic markets, some people just raised their eyebrows. Others laughed.

The newest Miss America, here, living in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn? Here, stopping in for a chat with the waiter and a vegetarian egg-white omelet at South Slope's Windsor Cafe?

Here, going for runs in Prospect Park, among some of the Americans least likely to watch the pageant at which she was crowned winner Saturday night?

"It's bizarre, right?" said Jane Hoppen, a writer, sitting at the bar at the Double Windsor in southern Park Slope on Sunday afternoon. Nothing against Miss America herself, whom she called a "damned good tap dancer," but, well, to be honest: "We don't believe in beauty pageants." Though Hoppen did not specify who "we" might be, she could have been speaking for any number of local residents who would rather their daughters identify as Ms., not Miss. The Miss in question, Mallory Hagan, is a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology whose victory was credited to her tap dancing (to James Brown's "Get Up Offa That Thing"), her campaign against child sexual abuse, and her adroit response when asked whether schools should hire armed guards ("I don't think the proper way to fight violence is with violence").

An Alabama native who moved to New York several years ago and became Miss Brooklyn in 2010, Hagan, 23, is not exactly a Brooklyn product. But she appears to have embraced the borough, even if it is not yet quite so ready to reciprocate. "In the time I've spent in New York, Brooklyn has grown very close to my heart. I love New York (and not in a tourist T-shirt kind of way) dearly and I truly believe this is the city where dreams come true," she

wrote on her blog. "Thank you, Brooklyn, for helping me get one step closer to mine."

Southern transplant though she is, Sen. Charles E. Schumer was quick to hail her victory for New York. (The last Miss New York to win the Miss America title was Vanessa Williams, the actress and singer, nearly 30 years ago; she relinquished her title after a

Isa shook her head.

"Miss America is a girl who represents our country," Brill said, offering what some might consider a wishful description. "What do you think she should be like?"

"Like she's a real person," Isa replied, adding thoughtfully: "Like she's not a baby."

Much as Brill might hope her young daughters grow up to possess those same

becoming Miss America and then, someday, a big-time cosmetics executive. She competed for the Miss New York title twice before winning it last year, and wrote that she juggled full-time employment and classes in addition to her pageant duties.

At least one Windsor Terrace resident needs no convincing.

"That's Brooklyn chutz-

But was Miss America, the pageant, equally "Brooklyn"? That, Markowitz acknowledged, was a somewhat more difficult proposition.

"There's a lot of things Brooklyn, but if you would have said to me Miss America, it was out of my —" he said, sounding at a loss for words. "It's just not the kind of thing the — you know?"

Yes, his constituents know.



The Double Windsor offers drink specials to celebrate the new Miss America, Mallory Hagan, in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Jan. 14, 2013. Hagan, an Alabama native who moved to New York several years ago and appears to have embraced Brooklyn, lives among some of the Americans least likely to watch the Miss America pageant.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

magazine published nude photos of her less than a year later.)

"Just goes to show that people from Brooklyn can do everything and anything," the senator said. "Pizza, bagels, beauty and talent — there's nothing we don't have in the borough of Kings."

Amy Brill, 42, a writer who lives just south of Prospect Park, simply laughed when she heard the news.

"That's hilarious!" She turned to her 4-year-old daughter, Isa, and asked, "Do you know who Miss America is?"

qualities, she said she would "never in a million years" encourage them to enter a pageant.

"I want them to feel beautiful every minute of their lives, and I want them to judge whether they're beautiful," she said, "and not anybody else."

Even if her particular ambition did not find favor, some saw Hagan's story as a classic tale of making it in the big city, albeit with an unorthodox twist.

Hagan has said she came to New York in 2008 with a large suitcase and less than \$1,000, dreaming of

pah," said Marty Markowitz, the Brooklyn borough president, who has met Hagan a few times.

"Who's more Brooklyn — somebody that voluntarily decided to leave wherever they lived and chose Brooklyn to live and reside and whatever? Or someone who was born and raised here and decided to leave us?"

"She is Brooklyn," Markowitz proclaimed, praising Hagan's grit and down-to-earth quality. "She may have a little Southern twang, but we have a Brooklyn twang, too."

But a few were following Markowitz's lead and making overtures toward the new hometown queen, even if partly in jest.

The staff at the Double Windsor put out a sign advertising the "Mallory Hagan" special: a pint of a local beer and an Alabama slammer — a shot of Southern Comfort, amaretto, grenadine and lime juice — for \$7.

"Congrats Mallory our neighborhood Miss America!" it read. "If you are Miss America, come in for your free bacon cheeseburger and unlimited fries." □